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30 April 1985

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INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

CHILE IMPROVES HIGHWAYS LINKING WITH ARGENTINA

Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 25 Mar 85 pp C-1, C-4

[Text] The Ministry of Public Works, through the Highway Office, is carrying out a number of repair projects on some routes leading to Argentina.

According to statements by Remberto Urrea, the chief highway engineer in our country, the legislatures of the two countries must ratify the Peace and Friendship Treaty before the Joint Chilean-Argentine Bilateral Commission can meet. Chile is already making some progress on the highways, however.

For Chile's part, the task force that is to study a future agenda for activities is made up of representatives of the Foreign Relations, National Defense, Public Works and Transportation Ministries, and of other state secretariats and divisions.

The chief of the Study Department of the Public Works Ministry, Jaime Carraminana, was named to represent that ministry.

There was no indication of the date on which the commission will begin its work, but it was said to be very soon, although the ratification of the treaty is still pending.

In any case, it was reported that some projects that will contribute to the highway linkage of Chile and Argentina are already underway.

Such is the case with Route 60-CH, which links Valparaiso, Vina del Mar, Los Andes and Cristo Redentor. Approximately 1 billion pesos is scheduled to be invested in this highway.

"The objective of these projects, which have already been initiated, is to improve the infrastructure to prevent problems from arising each winter. The idea is to decrease the number of days during which the road is impassable due to bad weather," explained Remberto Urrea.

In addition, work is being done to improve the road in the San Sebastian sector in Region XII.

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INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

CHILEAN, ARGENTINE COAL EXECUTIVES HOLD MEETING

Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 25 Mar 85 p C-5

[Article by Francisco Eterovic]

[Text] Punta Arenas--A meeting for the purpose of exchanging technical information was held in this city by high-ranking executives of the Chilean Coal Company (COCAR) and its Argentine counterpart, Government Coal Deposits (YCF).

The Argentine executives, headed by YCF President Enrique Spagenberg, and the COCAR representative, Marcos Buchi, visited the deposit at Pecket. This company will supply 80 percent of the coal contracted by the Chilean Copper Corporation (CODELCO) for the facilities at Tocopilla, which generate electricity for the copper center at Chuquicamata.

Referring to the meeting between the Chileans and Argentines, Buchi noted that "they are interested in methods other than those used in Argentina; in addition, they provided information about the coal deposit at Rio Turbio, near Natales."

COCAR, an entity made up of the Chilean Oil Company (COPEC) and the European firm NSM [expansion unknown], some time ago won the concession for the major deposit at Pecket, in Magallanes, 48 kilometers north of this city.

With respect to this mining center, which will supply CODELCO-Chile with 900,000 tons of coal per year, Buchi reported that the finishing touches are being put on the contracts for the delivery of the product, the construction of a port by a contractor, and the freight charges. This stage is expected to take 3 months.

Plans for the port terminal will be completed in the coming weeks, and it is expected to require an investment of about \$20 million. "This is a port specializing in mineral transportation. Its facilities will include a 2,500-meter conveyor belt, and the pier itself, which will be made of metal and will stand on 1,800-meter piles," indicated the official.

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INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

ADAMS BLOCKED CARIBBEAN SUMMIT SUPPORT FOR GUYANA

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 13 Mar 85 p 8

[Text]

KINGSTON Jamaica Tuesday group with a socialist government (CANA) — Strong objections from following the October 1983 United conservative Caribbean countries, States-led invasion of Grenada, was marshalled by Barbados, led to the absent from the February 25-26 summit. The government of President deletion of a statement of solidarity with Guyana over its territorial dispute Forbes Burnham said it could not send a representative because the meeting with Venezuela from the final communiqué of last month's summit here coincided with national day between Canada and Commonwealth Caribbean countries, informed regional celebrations. sources say.

Informed sources said that reference to the Venezuela—Guyana dispute was in a draft communique, but was ordered deleted by the heads of Government. Support was however given to Belize in its territorial wrangle with Guatemala. "You can say that the Barbados Prime Minister Tom Adams seized the bull by the horns and articulated the thoughts of some of the countries, but which the smaller ones felt they couldn't themselves lay on the table," a Jamaican source said yesterday. Adams died yesterday.

One East Caribbean source told CANA that it was Barbados, Jamaica and Antigua—Barbuda who were mainly behind the move to delete reference to Guyana's border dispute. Guyana, the remaining country in the Caribbean Community (CARICOM)

CSO: 3298/505

INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

SUPPORT FOR CARIBBEAN FORCE WANES; ADAMS' REMARKS CITED

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 11 Mar 85 p 7

[Text]

KINSTON, Jamaica — Support for a proposed multinational Eastern Caribbean army is fading away under cost concerns, political backlash and the passage of time since the Grenada crisis.

For its initial backers, sharp criticism of the plan because of its cost and its perceived effect of "militarizing" the sun-splashed islands has made the term "regional standing army" better forgotten.

"I'm not sure now, seeing the strength of the feelings (in opposition), that I would support the idea of committing forces to a single organisation," said Barbados Prime Minister Tom Adams, who introduced the idea in a January 22, 1984, speech.

"I think it is safer to get away from the expression standing army, because that is the expression that sticks in the craw of many people in and out of the Caribbean," Mr. Adams said in an interview while here for the February 25-26 Canada-Caribbean summit.

"I think I am a right person to say we should perhaps withdraw the expression from further consideration because it gives rise to perceptions that are neither accurate nor desirable."

Barbados, with some 400 soldiers, has the largest armed force of the Eastern Caribbean islands.

Leaders on Antigua, Dominica and St. Lucia charged Libyan strongman, Moammar Ghadaffi with aiding radicals on their islands in the early 1980s, and there were also fears of Cuban adventurism and Grenada's Cuba-aided military buildup.

SECURITY ALLIANCE

In 1982, the islands, excepting Grenada, formed a security alliance aimed at cooperation on coast guard searches, anti-drug efforts and violent destabilisation.

Mr. Adams, speaking three months after a bloody army takeover in leftist Grenada, was followed by a United States-led invasion supported

by seven Caribbean nations, expressed belief that "one regional army" would protect the tiny islands from insurrections, mercenaries and revolts of their own armed forces.

United States Secretary of State, Mr. George Shultz indicated his approval of the regional army in a February 8, 1984, meeting with Mr. Adams in Barbados, saying "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure".

But Washington cooled on the idea when regional military officials proposed a 1800-member force, with headquarters on Barbados and garrisons on Antigua and Grenada. United States officials estimated the cost at \$60 million or more and dismissed it as unrealistic — because the islands, even with United States aid could not afford to maintain such a

military.

Mr. Adams blames such high estimates on "the lavishness of American military expenditure". He also suspects the United States decided against the regional army because of its traditional policy of dealing with the Caribbean islands singly instead of as a region.

Regional critics also said such an army would change the nature of the usually tranquil islands and might be used to put down legitimate dissent against government repression.

COUP

One focus of such debate was the 1979 Grenada coup, in which Maurice Bishop appeared to have wide popularity after ousting the increasingly repressive regime of the eccentric Sir Eric Gairy. Asked whether a regional army existing then would have been sent in to put down the coup, Mr. Adams replied: "I don't think the political will would have existed."

"After the coup, there was a meeting in Barbados in which assurances were given to us by Bishop that the coup was temporary and that elections would be held and there would be a return to constitutional government."

"Given that, I don't think any Caribbean government would have wanted to sacrifice a single soldier or policeman to put Gairy back into power," Mr. Adams said.

The July 25, 1984, election of James Mitchell as prime minister of St. Vincent and the Grenadines brought into the regional alliance a vociferous critic of militarisa-

tion. Mr. Mitchell said the region's best bet for protecting its current stability is economic and social development.

"Grenada's problem was that they had an army," Mr. Mitchell explained. "I'd rather take my chances with funds for development."

At the February summit here, after which Mr. Adams and the six other Eastern Caribbean leaders met to discuss security issues, the other leaders were following Mr. Mitchell's line.

"We're happy with the regional security system the way it is now," said Prime Minister Kennedy Simmonds of St. Kitts-Nevis, who in 1981 disbanded the army on his nation of 44 500 people.

"We don't want guns in the Caribbean. We want this to be a zone of peace. Grenada was an aberration. That's over with now," said St. Lucia Prime Minister John Compton.

Mr. Adams had hoped at the Jamaica meeting — in which Grenada's recently elected government joined the group — to sign documents formalising some aspects of the loosely defined alliance, but was unable to gain unanimity.

"With the current domination of moderate politicians in the region and with no signs of violent turmoil ahead, 'I'd be surprised if two or three years would accommodate the getting together of the act'."

"These things tend to come through very quickly during an emergency, then tend to get put on a backburner," he reflected. (AP)

30 April 1985

INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

DETAILS OF BARBADOS-GUYANA NEGOTIATIONS REPORTED

Report on Communiqué

Georgetown NEW NATION in English 10 Feb 85 pp 4-5

[Text]

A Guyanese team concluded two days of talks Tuesday afternoon with a Barbados delegation. The discussions centred on the broad areas of bilateral co-operation within the context of the Caricom Treaty of Chaguaramas and the Caricom Multilateral Clearing Facility.

Deputy Prime Minister, Planning, Cde Haslyn Parris, headed the Guyana team, which included Minister of Finance, Cde Carl Greenidge, and Minister within the Ministry of Agriculture, Dr. Simpson DaSilva.

Barbadian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Trade and Industry, Mr. H. St. John, led his country's delegation among whom were Minister of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Affairs, Dr. R. Cheltenham; Minister of Housing and Lands, Mr. L. Braithwaite; and Minister of Labour and Social Security, Mr. Delisle Bradshaw.

According to communiqué issued by the Department of International Economic Co-operation, the high-powered teams agreed that bilateral co-operation should be intensified, and a number of areas were selected for immediate attention.

There was a consensus that Guyana has the potential for the supply of fruit, fish, and rice to Barbados, and that that sister Caricom nation could supply Guyana with onions and possibly carrots. Both teams agreed that there was a great demand in Barbados

for Guyana's wood and wood products, and that Guyana has the capacity to provide Barbados with a wide range of such products including pre-fabricated houses. This capacity is to be activated by appropriate joint action.

"The possibility of utilising labour and excess capacity within the Guyana garment industry to boost the joint production of garments by Barbados and Guyana should be investigated," the communiqué stated.

It added that the discussions were held in an atmosphere of cordiality, which is a traditional characteristic of relations between the two countries. It was also agreed that officials of the central banks of both countries would devise ways and means of facilitating payments within the context of the CMCF.

Resource persons from the two countries were identified to develop the areas of co-operation and to produce implementable proposals which will be reviewed in March.

It is understood that in the area of agricultural trade, the two Ministers of Agriculture will continue talks this week after Dr. Cheltenham returns to Guyana for a meeting of Caricom Ministers responsible for sugar, Monday. The two officials will follow-up closely, the proposals coming out of the just-concluded meeting and ensure that the agreements are implemented.

Guyana has always

posited trade among Caribbean states as a major step toward ensuring regional food security and independence. This nation was a willing signatory to the Caricom Common Protective Policy that seeks to encourage trade in the region, of agriculture and livestock products.

The main tenet of this policy is to discourage the entry into the region of such products by imposing high tariff barriers, while lowering the barriers for similar items originating within Caricom.

The Ministry of Agriculture has already taken steps to ensure careful monitoring and implementing agreements coming out of last week's talks which placed great emphasis on trade in agricultural produce.

Cde Fitz Dorway, Permanent Secretary (Technical), has been identified as this country's representative to liaise with his Barbadian counterpart to expedite and clarify agreements.

And a technical team from the Agriculture Ministry will immediately, put in place systems to ensure proper crop husbandry in farming areas that produce for export.

Follow-Up Discussions

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 25 Feb 85 p 3

[Text]

An agreement between Guyana and Barbados for trade in agriculture produce and marine foods is expected to be signed by the third week of next month, and will become operational from April 1.

When signed, the agreement will allow for this country to export to the sister Caricom nation pineapples, limes, mangoes, tangerines, avocado, pears, plantains,

fish and shrimp. And, Guyana should import from Barbados, Black Belly sheep and onions, authoritative sources said last weekend.

This came out of follow-up discussions between Guyana's Minister within the Ministry of Agriculture, Dr Simpson Da Silva and his Barbadian counterpart, Dr Richard Cheltenham, on February 15. This recent meeting was the first since a Barbados trade team, led by Deputy Prime Minister Bernard St John, met Guyanese officials led by

Deputy Prime Minister Planning, Haslyn Parris in Guyana on February 4 and 5.

According to a joint communique issued after the Deputy Prime Ministers' meeting the two countries agreed to intensify bilateral co-operation, and identified the garment industry, the forestry sector, and agriculture produce as feasible areas of co-operation.

It was decided then that the Ministers of Agriculture will have further meetings to finalise arrangements for trade

in this sector.

At the February 15 meeting Dr Cheltenham invited Dr Da Silva to continue talks next month in Barbados where the agreement is likely to be signed.

Exports are to be made on a government to government basis and the two sides agreed on the need to put in place systems to ensure good quality bearing in mind that the availability of markets is based upon the guarantee of high quality and reliable supplies.

Barbados Sheep Exports

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 27 Feb 85 p 3

[Text]

BARBADOS will be exporting black belly sheep to Guyana from April 1 this year.

According to a Guyana government official an agreement between Guyana and Barbados paving the way for trade in agricultural produce and marine foods is expected to be signed before the end of the month.

"When signed, the agreement will allow for Guyana to export to the sister Caribbean Community (CARICOM) country, pineapples, limes, mangoes, tangerines, avocado pears, plantains, fish and shrimp and Guyana will import black belly sheep and onions," the official said.

The terms of the agreement were not disclosed.

This new phase of cooperation between the two countries is the direct result of talks between Guyana's minister in the Ministry of Agriculture, Dr. Simpson DaSilva, and his Barbadian counterpart, Dr. Richard Cheltenham.

Dr. Cheltenham has also extended an invitation to Dr. DaSilva to visit Barbados next month, the official said.

A joint communique issued at the end of a visit to Guyana earlier this month by a Barbados ministerial delegation led by Deputy Prime Minister, Bernard St. John, said the two countries would "intensify bilateral cooperation" and identified the garment industry, the forestry sector and agriculture produce as feasible areas of cooperation.

CSO: 3298/505

ARGENTINA

POLITICAL OBSERVER PREDICTS ALFONSIN WILL FINISH TERM

Buenos Aires EL ECONOMISTA in Spanish 15 Mar 85 pp 4-5

[Article by Rodolfo Pandolfi]

[Excerpt] Peronism

Dr Raul Alfonsin will oversee the elections in 1989 and will hand over power to his successor on 10 December of that year. It would be unrealistic to believe, however, that there will be no crises this entire time. The prospects of getting through the difficult times with a greater or lesser degree of success will hinge on relations between the ruling party and the opposition.

This year will be terribly difficult in all areas, but the administration will gradually bring the situation under control and put together its own structures. The most severe institutional tensions during the current presidential term will surface in 1986 and 1987, up to and including the gubernatorial elections. All indications are that the tensions will subside in 1988 and 1989 then. This is not an exercise in political fiction, of course, and a whole slew of domestic developments could change the initial outlook. The important thing, however, is to realize that although the upcoming election of deputies will be significant, the government is most of all interested in seeing what sort of opposition coalition it will be up against in the second half of 1986; this will depend largely on how the Peronist crisis evolves.

Italo Argentino Luder has recently reemerged and leveled extremely harsh criticism at the government, but within the bounds of the constitution. He made the mistake of going too far in downplaying what happened at the Peronist convention, which he described as normal, as if it were normal for a party to split up and have a president in absentia who then resigns, and of overplaying the Radical Party's problems. Luder's problem might be the same one that largely led to his defeat in the 1983 election: his lack of personal power overshadows his role as a much-needed peacemaker. In any event, we should note that Italo Luder and Raul Matera are so far the new candidates for party peacemaker.

ARGENTINA

GOVERNMENT, UNIONS PREPARE FOR 'NEW CLASH'

PY101753 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 10 Apr 85 p 7

[Text] (NA-DYN)--The government and the unified CGT neared a new clash yesterday as Labour Minister Hugo Barrionuevo admitted there would be no inflation adjustment for first quarter 1985 wages and CGT secretary-general Saul Ubaldini warned that its payment is the confederation's "top priority."

Meanwhile, a new strike wave began mounting as most of the country's 500,000 teachers will begin a 2-day walkout today, the 160,000-strong Bank Clerks' Association (AB) announced work stoppages in 2 weeks, and dockers said they could resort to strike action unless steady jobs were made available to them.

CGT directive board members yesterday announced a national plenary meeting of regional secretaries-general on 23 April. The CGT plenary is expected to call for a march on Government House 7 days later in what union sources say could also lead to a half-day strike.

Osvaldo Borda, another of the four national CGT secretaries-general, said unionists yesterday also decided to require a meeting with President Raul Alfonsin "so that he can tell us what's going on with the quarterly wage adjustment."

Under an agreement earlier this year, Alfonsin promised that differences between monthly wage hikes and real inflation levels would be paid workers at the end of every quarter.

Borda ruled out the possibility of meeting with Barrionuevo instead of Alfonsin to talk wages, saying "the problem can only be resolved now by higher authorities."

The plastic workers leader added that the CGT directive board would "probably" announce a "battle plan" to back its demands during a meeting, expected to be held next week.

The CGT directive board yesterday also agreed to seek support from the 10 business groups participating in the socio-economic contract talks.

Barrionuevo, after yesterday's socio-economic cabinet meeting, told reporters there would be no adjustment for last quarter and said that in the private sector employers and workers are now free to "directly agree" on whether an adjustment should be paid.

In separate statements yesterday, Barrionuevo told unionists that wage bargaining talks would not be reestablished until August or September of this year.

The Teacher's Confederation (CTERA) confirmed its 48-hour strike after the Socio-Economic Cabinet yesterday failed to announce any additional wage hikes for teachers.

The cabinet reportedly rejected Education Minister Carols Alconada Aramburu's proposals as high and a wage announcement is expected by Friday. Most of the country's teachers at the grade school, high school and university level are expected to back the walkout.

Court clerks are to strike today to demand the Senate remove article four of a draft law on judicial sector wages. The article would reduce clerk's pay-scales by 20 percent, unionists say.

AB secretary-general Juan Jose Zanola yesterday warned bank clerks would stage 3-hour strikes on 23, 24 and 25 April to demand that a committee be created to study clerks' wage demands. Zanola said employers' lack of response to their demands forced a resumption of AB's battle plan suspended 3 weeks ago.

The Dockers' Union (SUPA) yesterday requested a meeting with Alfonsin to demand steady jobs for 2,000 of the country's 5,400 port workers who now only work part time and warned it would take strike action otherwise.

In Sante Fe, 50 workers occupied the San Pedro meat-packing plant to demand payment of wages owed since February, while in Chacarita 70 printers' took over the Krufer Company after owners started to dismantle shop equipment.

CSO: 3300/30

ARGENTINA

INNER WORKINGS, EXTENT OF COORDINATING BOARD DETAILED

Radical Youth Background

Buenos Aires SOMOS in Spanish 22 Mar 85 pp 16-22

[Article by Luis Castellanos: "What Is the Coordinating Board?"]

[Text] "We are Alem's and Irigoyen's gang. We are the National Coordinating Board of Radical Youth" (popular Radical youth ditty).

Berets, white and red flags, euphoria, big bass drums. They were unquestionably the stars of the campaign that carried Raul Alfonsin to the presidency. In their own way (we will soon see what the differences were) the boys and girls in Radical Youth were like the crowds that flaunted their ill-will under the placards of the Peronist Youth during the 1970's. Perhaps that was why some people feared that history would repeat itself, unaware that it does not. The young people who jump and shout and get worked up alongside the posters and placards of Radical Youth have a completely different attitude. They do shout, it is true, and at times are aggressive in arguing their proposals for change. But their message lacks the ominous cadence of the people who in the 1970's chanted: "The FAR [Revolutionary Armed Forces] and the Montoneros are our comrades" or who pompously made a V-sign with their fingers to the chant of "these are the Montoneros who got rid of Aramburu."

Perhaps it was how suddenly they appeared en masse in public (the leaders themselves say their peak was right after the Malvinas war), but the fact is that the emergence of the Radical Youth on the Argentine political scene was viewed with a great deal of suspicion and not without misgivings by several sectors.

This was partly a reflection of a general attitude in our society, which does not make it all easy for young people to join the productive economy or to become involved in decision-making. It was also partly because of the memories of the years of violence that preceded and followed the 11 March 1973 election that brought odontologist Hector Campora and Popular Conservative Vicente Solano Lima to power.

There was also this worrisome ingredient. The mysterious National Coordinating Board (those in the know called it simply "the Coordinator") was reminiscent of the clandestine, occult, almost secret society-like organizations that cast a pall over the politics of the 1970's. Many thought they saw in this obscure Coordinating Board the specter of the organizations that back then devoured the Peronist Movement from within, from both the left and the right, as an astonished and terrorized society looked on, incapable of reacting to the senseless violence that had been unleashed in its midst.

Even before Alfonsín became president, there were those who were calling the members of the Youth Coordinating Board Alfonsín's "Montoneros," the Radical Party's Peronist Youth or, more straightforwardly, "the Left that had infiltrated" Radicalism. We need to know whether these descriptions stand up to calm analysis.

Is it a party within a party? Is it an organization of Radicals in disguise whose political plans are different from Alfonsín's and Radicalism's? Is it a youth faction that seeks to be Alfonsín's heir so that it can implement its extremist proposals? Are these just young men and women who have assumed high public office and are performing leadership functions thanks to an election victory whose magnitude not even they had imagined? The purpose of this article is to answer these questions, to unravel these mysteries, to find out the truth about the National Coordinating Board.

"When they staged the coup that toppled Arturo Illia in 1966, I was in school. I was in the sixth grade at the Boedo and Chiclana school, and my teacher was Eduardo Vacca, who is now a Peronist leader." Jesus Rodríguez, a 29-year old national deputy, chairman of the important Budget and Finance Committee of the House and chairman of the National Committee of Radical Youth, indulges in a little reminiscing. Considered one of the kingpins (and also one of the controversial figures) of the Coordinating Board, he is the first Argentine-born child of an Asturian family and has been a Radical since he entered university in 1972 (his degree is in economic science).

"At that time we realized that in order to change the authoritarian standards in the university, we also had to make changes in politics, which was not possible unless we joined political parties. We chose Radicalism precisely because we were opposed to the violence and the brazenness of the street gangs and because we believed in a democratic competition of ideas," he recalls.

Rodríguez becomes angry when he hears some sectors compare Radical Youth to the terrorist fronts that operated during the 1970's.

"Exactly the opposite happened," he says. "In the university we defeated the groups that advocated violence, through debate and at the polls. In 1973, when they were at their political peak, we took control of the Argentine University Federation (FUA) and made Federico Storani its president."

Mario Negri, from Cordoba, the 31-year old vice chairman of the National Committee of Radical Youth, agrees with Rodriguez on all points.

"In Cordoba," he recalls, "we were the victims of party shock troops. I remember one election that we had won in the university. Our leaders were on a balcony reading off the results of the vote count, which had us winning with 900 votes to about 700 for the Peronists. Down below, though, instead of celebrating, the Franja Morada activists were fighting with the losing Peronists who were trying to run them out of the courtyard with chains.

"You have to remember that back then no one was really interested in putting together a concrete proposal for the university. The groups that wanted violence regarded the university merely as recruitment center. Both the Left and the Right were involved in this. We were caught in their crossfire, as they turned the departments into their battleground."

It was in the 1970's that Franja Morada grew steadily nationwide. Formerly a student group for a wide range of reformist factions (the reformists used a violet [morada] insignia during the battles between laicos and libres during Frondizi's administration, it became Radicalism's organized university group around then.

The group that 100 or so Radical youth activists had set up at a Setubal estate in Santa Fe Province began to take shape and grow numerically around then under the name of the National Coordinating Board of Radical Youth. The organization meeting had been held in 1968 in a bid to unify the political activities of the Radical groups that had been dispersed by the overthrow of Arturo Illia in June 1966. Attending the meeting, among others, were the current governor of Misiones, Ricardo Barrios Arrechea; current national deputies Luis "Changui" Caceres (Santa Fe) and Leopoldo Moreau (Buenos Aires Province) and the current undersecretary of social action, Enrique "Coti" Nosiglia.

The Coordinating Board began operating in 1969 in direct contact with the then chairman of the committee of Buenos Aires Province, Raul Alfonsin, voicing its mounting disagreements with the party's national leadership, which was headed by Ricardo Balbin.

As far back as 1972 there was already a flourishing alliance between the youths and the caudillo from Chascomus, as reflected in the establishment of the Renovation and Change Movement in the city of Rosario; its charter was drafted by Leopoldo Moreau and Marcelo Stubrin, two of the founders of the Coordinating Board.

The group's current leaders make the point that the Coordinating Board is not and never sought to be an autonomous entity within the Radical Party. "We are merely the largest faction of Radical Youth, but organizationally we are part of the Renovation and Change Movement," Jesus Rodriguez points out over and over.

Perhaps this is why the boys in the Coordinating Board bristle when they are compared with the Peronist Youth groups that stood side by side with the Montoneros and the Revolutionary Armed Forces (FAR) during Peronism's huge public rallies in the 1970's.

Once again Jesus Rodriguez emphatically rejects the comparison. "We have put forth a rallying cry. We say that we represent life, in contrast to the people who believed in the banners of death. But our rallying cry is nothing new. We sounded it back when most young people subscribed to the other idea and were calling for an armed takeover of power. In 1974 we left the Argentine Political Youth, which was a multiparty organization, because we felt that it was seeking to promote a plan that would lead to the defeat of Argentine youth, a plan associated with violence and death."

Those who remember the tumultuous, violent years of Argentine youth's emergence on the political scene (the turmoil did not subside until the military government took over in 1976) can testify that Rodriguez is telling the truth.

No one can deny that Radical Youth represents the left wing of Radicalism or that the faction that the Coordinating Board represents is the youth group's loudest voice. No one, however, can accuse Radical Youth of ever having proposed an armed takeover of political power or of having infiltrated the party to impose its own political program.

One need only hear the criticisms that the Left levels at the Radical youth to grasp a simple truth: Although the Coordinating Board is Radicalism's most leftwing faction, its tenets are still termed reformist by the groups and parties that call themselves leftwing, Marxist or promoters of socialism.

The questions we posed at the beginning of this article gradually become answerable as we delve deeper into the organization, behavior and proposals of the Radical youths on the Coordinating Board.

When Arturo Illia's government was ousted in 1966, one unanswered question bothered Radicals, especially young people: How could most citizens sit idly by and watch the fall of a democratic government? Some will argue that a powerful psychological campaign had been organized against Illia and that his own weakness (he had won the election, with just 25 percent of the votes, because the Peronists had been outlawed) was pushing him towards the abyss. But the Radicals began planning their future from another perspective, and this became one of the hubs of the lengthy discussions that were held over mate tea in Setubal in 1968. Their explanation was brilliant. Radicalism had not grown and was unable to counter military uprisings because of a congenital defect: it was a fossilized party composed of affiliates instead of activists. And the answer was within the reach of the new generation of young people forged in the university struggle:

Radicalism had to be slowly converted into a party of political cadres, of activists. It had to put an end to the pernicious practice of committees and get in touch with the new day and age where political pragmatism demanded new forms of involvement and mobilization.

We have already referred to the difficulties that confronted Radicalism at large and the Coordinating Board youth in particular during the violent years. The fact is that some of its predictions seem to have come true, inasmuch as the party's fastest growth coincided exactly with the widespread rejection by Argentines of any form of violence.

"We really began to grow after the Malvinas war," Mario Negri says in this connection, "because we came out with clear proposals that were different from those of the other parties. We came out for life and for the involvement of all in the consolidation of democracy. Our growth was, of course, closely tied to the rise of Alfonsin, that is to say, the emergence of a trustworthy leader whom thousands of Argentines saw as an opportunity for the country to leave behind very tragic years."

The kingpins on the Coordinating Board stubbornly sidestep one issue: its internal workings. Experts at political sleight of hand, they stress that they are just party activists who hold political leadership positions thanks to the October election victory, calling themselves Radical activists from the youth sector.

"The Coordinating Board is not an apparatus, as some have insinuated, precisely because we are completely different from the Peronist organizations, which concealed different political programs and fought to impose them inside and outside their movement. We are part of an organization, we work within the party in each precinct, in each electoral section, in each district. It would be unthinkable for someone to become a Radical leader by sneaking through the window, as we are tired of seeing in other parties. A person who can't muster his own support is a nobody in our party. If he doesn't have a constituency, he can't run for any office or lead anyone." These are once again the words of Jesus Rodriguez, although on this point all Radicals concur, no matter what sector they are from.

But those who know the Coordinating Board well, from long years as members of it, do not entirely agree with the views that its people express publicly. They assert that the Coordinating Board is, in fact, a school for political cadres whose members expect to inherit not only the party structure but Alfonsin's political vitality as well. And they have allegedly worked out a long-range strategy to this end. Realizing that Peronism is in the midst of an inevitable internal breakup and convinced that the military is no longer a valid political option in the country, they assume that time is on their side.

Their idea, for the time being, is to work painstakingly on the district-level (with the patience and dedication that are so typically Radical in performing tasks involving "delicate embroidery") and to gain as much ground as they can in the party structure without doing battle yet in the party's National Committee.

Their goals are modest for now. Those in the know say that they seek to consolidate the positions that their front-line men have patiently won and to expand their base nationwide, because they realize that so far their only real stronghold is the federal capital. Within 3 years they will run many of their own men as gubernatorial hopefuls and from then on fine-tune their engines with an eye towards the Grand Prize: the nation's presidency.

By that time, all internal differences will have been ironed out, and several hopefuls will have fallen by the wayside; at least this is what people close to the influential Enrique "Coti" Nosiglia, a Coordinating Board kingpin in the capital district, are saying.

The insinuations seem aimed at Nosiglia's major challenger on the Coordinating Board, Luis "Changui" Caceres, who some say has presidential aspirations, like Nosiglia. But the Santa Fe deputy has been out of favor since April 1984 when he called for Alfonsin to step down as chairman of the National Committee, on the pretext that this would give him more time to discharge his presidential duties. This was not the Santa Fe leader's only gaffe. He also said that the Radical Party should monitor the government and keep the administration in touch with social realities.

Caceres reportedly received a terse reply, which apparently reflected the view of the highest government levels, from the president of the Radical legislative bloc. Cesar Jaroslavsky allegedly told him that the party should defend the Executive Branch from the criticism leveled at it.

The feud between the capital faction (Nosiglia) and the faction from the interior (especially Caceres from the Santa Fe district) enables the members of the Coordinating Board to enthusiastically engage in one of their favorite pastimes: infighting.

Not satisfied with forging alliances and counteralliances in partywide infighting and scoring resounding successes in districts like the federal capital, where they have achieved a significant degree of power (30 out of 37 city council seats), they are now drawing their own battle lines within the Coordinating Board.

Longstanding party activists say that the Coordinating Board does not really have what could be called an alternative program or that if it ever existed, it no longer does. They prefer to simplify the issue, viewing the young Radicals as politicians through and through seeking to gain ground rather than as masked conspirators.

What no one questions is that the Coordinating Board's method of operation, its emphasis on mobilization, its political style and its way of training cadres are novelties that the party's traditional leaders find hard to swallow. Such marked differences could not but give rise to opposition, which in some cases is quite stiff. In the federal capital, where the Coordinating Board is strongest and where Alfonsin scored a crushing victory (62 percent to just 26 percent for Peronism), the long-time leaders of the Renovation and Change Movement have begun to put together new alliances.

To this end they have turned to National Line (a Balbin faction), Juan Trilla's old unionism and an Alfonsin faction that does not belong to Renovation and Change and that calls itself the "inter-district group." They have also contacted the recently deceased Ruben Rabanal's Popular Intransigence and the faction headed by Deputy Liborio Pupillo, a hardworking party recruiter.

To confront an alliance that is threatening the Coordinating Board's hold over its half-dozen metropolitan districts (out of 28 in all), the youths control the bloc of councilmen headed by Facundo Suarez Lastra (29). Facundo was the Coordinating Board's candidate for mayor, instead of Julio Saguier, his rival in district 19, and must now establish as many political contacts as he can to avoid losing the upcoming internal elections. In many districts the working methods imposed on party members and the lack of specific tasks (after the campaign) have caused many activists to stay away from the committees, so much so that many of them have closed up shop. Even "Coti" Nosiglia, a skillful architect of alliances, has begun worrying, according to his followers, that he is on shaky ground in his own district, number 20.

And as for Jorge Gomez, the ally of the Coordinating Board who has been the chairman of the Capital Committee since Juan Trilla resigned, he recently suffered a serious setback when he was unable to control a mutiny in his own headquarters at Formosa 100 in the sixth section (Caballito).

It would be difficult, if not impossible to accurately determine the support or the rallying power of the Coordinating Board, although it is unquestionably a force to be reckoned with in the federal capital and Santa Fe and is strong in other major areas such as Mendoza and Buenos Aires Province.

In the latter district, however, they have to cope with Juan Manuel Casella, who according to all the polls will most likely be the new chairman of the Provincial Committee, with the backing of all sectors and even of some former members of the Coordinating Board, such as Leopoldo Moreau (San Isidro), who is seeking reelection as a deputy in the November elections and will reportedly be second on the list of candidates behind Casella himself.

In Santa Fe, a Peronist province that is paradoxically a stronghold of the Coordinating Board, Luis "Changuí" Cáceres (who until recently was the undisputed leader of Radicalism in the provinces) will go head to head with the current mayor of Rosario, Horacio Usandizaga. Usandizaga has done a great deal of recruiting work for the party in his district, maintains good relations with Peronism and will most likely be a candidate for governor in 1986 if by then he has managed to beat out Cáceres, whose star seems to be dimming.

The men of the Coordinating Board are unquestionably the main actors in one of the strangest political dramas in Argentina today. When speaking with its leaders, one at times gets the impression that they themselves are astonished at how much power has fallen into their hands. But they do not convey the impression that they are pushing extremist political programs, alternatives to the one that Raul Alfonsín represents in the Executive Branch. Perhaps the best definition of them comes from the Peronist Guido di Tella. In an open letter to the nation's president, he referred to the fears that had arisen in Buenos Aires over what some media described as a Coordinating Board move on the Central Bank (some of the group's men were appointed to its Board of Directors). Di Tella said: "They are not as fearsome as they are portrayed. They are intelligent and want only to accelerate their rise in the party. If they had economic power in their hands, they would get such a scare that they would turn prudent."

Radical Youth Leaders

Buenos Aires SOMOS in Spanish 22 Mar 85 pp 18-19

[Article by Luis Castellanos: "The Kingpins of Radical Youth"]

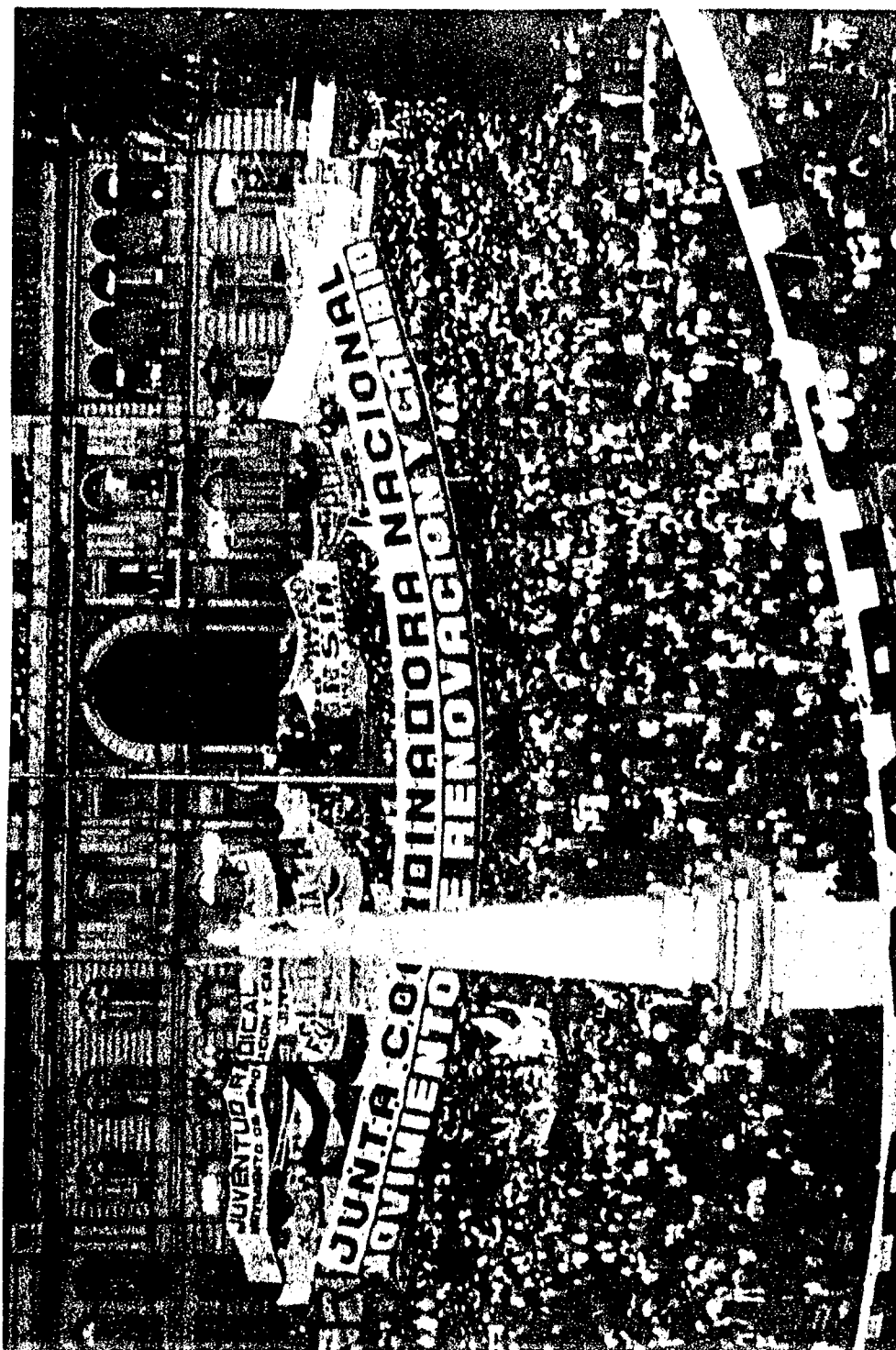
[Text] There are without doubt many more of them. But these are the ones who cannot be left out of a review of what we could call the top echelon of the National Coordinating Board. Some are supposed to maintain a high political profile, which makes them better known to the public at large. Others, working behind the scenes, plan the board's alliances and moves with an eye towards Radical infighting and politics in general. Let's see who's who on the Coordinating Board today.

--Enrique "Coti" Nosiglia, 35, is unanimously regarded as the "master" of the youth organization in the federal capital, which means he dominates the district in which the group is strongest and enjoys its greatest rallying power. He is the man with whom first- and second-rank leaders are always consulting, although they bother him only for the major issues. From his bunker in the Social Action Ministry, where he is an undersecretary, he maintains an iron-like hold on the capital city leadership of the Coordinating Board. Not in contact much with the press (including Radical youth friends in the mass media), he keeps a low profile while devoting himself to his passion: political maneuvering. Feared, respected and accepted

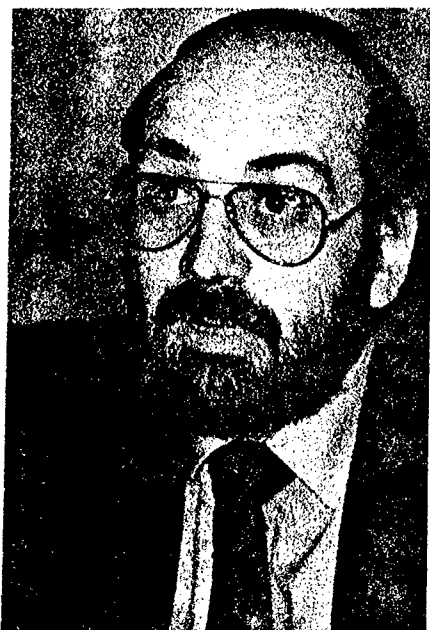
as an authority by his fellow activists, to many he is the leading strategist of the Coordinating Board and of those of its members who have the strongest and smoothest relations with President Raul Alfonsin.

Since he went to work in the Social Action Ministry he has appeared very infrequently in public, for example, to announce that the Solidarity Train would visit the northeastern provinces in March 1984 to bring aid to flood victims or to talk about the National Food Program (PAN), which is one of the initiatives attributed to him. When Juan Vital Sourrouille recently took over as economy minister from Bernardo Grinspun, Nosiglia shared an intimate supper with him and banker Mario Brodherson, the head of the National Development Bank, giving rise to a great deal of conjecture. Sourrouille's arrival in the Economy Ministry coincided with the departure from the Central Bank of Enrique Garcia Vazquez, one of the officials whom the Coordinating Board had criticized the most. Hardly known by the public at large, Nosiglia does his work, his associates say, with his eyes hypnotically fixed on the long run. Perhaps then he will start running after the largest Radical Party trophy: the coveted presidential nomination for 1989. For the time being, he is staying in the background behind the more prominent leaders, waiting for the right time to burst onto the scene but jealously guarding his image until then.

--Luis "Changui" Caceres, 41, a Santa Fe attorney, a national deputy from his province, a first secretary of the Radical Party's National Committee and a trade union activist, he is regarded as Nosiglia's opposite, not only in appearance (he is stout while Nosiglia is careful to keep in shape; his belt tends to droop under the weight of his protruding stomach, and he is not fond of ties) but politically as well. Like Nosiglia, Changui took part in the Legendary Radical Youth congress in Setubal (Santa Fe) in 1968, where the Coordinating Board was formally organized. But his loud, brash, straightforward style has caused frictions with Nosiglia's men in the federal capital, who have apparently decided to keep him out of major decision-making, though they seemingly maintain the friendliest of relations with him and his people. Caceres suffered a serious setback when in April 1984 he proposed (more sadly than enthusiastically) that Raul Alfonsin ought to resign as chairman of the party's National Committee so that he could devote himself exclusively to his duties as president. In late December last year, during the congress of the Argentine University Federation in Tucuman, which was dominated by Franja Morada, the Radical Party's university arm, a group began chanting a refrain that caught the attention of the press. "Watch out, watch out, 'Changui-Cacerismo' is sweeping Latin America," Caceres's young followers chanted. Contradictory and impulsive (his closest associates say that the little advice he gets is bad), Caceres nevertheless has an acknowledged personal carisma and is the most important Coordinating Board leader opposed to Nosiglia. Although his activities are apparently on the decline, he has his own organization in the interior of the country, and his word carries weight during major debates. He is also said to have presidential aspirations for 1989.



Since 1982 Radical Youth has been the most dynamic force in Argentine politics. "Our banners do not conceal leftwing programs or ulterior motives," its leaders say.



Jesus Rodriguez: "We represent life; we never advocate violence."



Mario Negri: "We grew the most after the Malvinas conflict."

--Federico Storani, 33, is also an attorney and has a prominent Radical Party background. His father, the current secretary of energy, Conrad Storani, was Alfonsin's running mate in the battle for the 1972 presidential nomination, which was won by the Balbin-Gamond ticket. Federico began working in the Senate in 1973 alongside then national Senator Hipolito Solari Yrigoyen, who was slain in an attack blamed on the AAA [Argentine Anticommunist Alliance]. He is a member of the Standing Human Rights Assembly and served as president of the Argentine University Federation for 3 years. He now chairs the important Foreign Relations Committee of the Chamber of Deputies, which has enabled him to shine as the main speaker in the debate on the passage of the peace and friendship treaty that Argentina and Chile signed to settle the Beagle conflict.

He is the main leader of the Coordinating Board in Buenos Aires Province but has to do battle there with the strong machine run by former Labor Minister Juan Manuel Casella, who looks like a sure winner in the party race for chairman of the Provincial Committee. That is, if there is, in fact, a race, inasmuch as Storani and Casella might well come to a gentlemen's agreement to forestall the damage that another ruckus would cause for the Radical administration. A Third World partisan, albeit a pragmatic one, a supporter of good relations with the Peronists but not with the "union bureaucracy," Storani has among his allies and/or friends the undersecretary of

Latin American Affairs, Raul Alconada Sempe; the president of State Gas, Juan Gazzani, and the undersecretary of University Affairs, Hugo Storani. Initially inclined to support Changui Caceres in his battle with the young Radicals from the capital, Storani is now devoting all his efforts to settling the complex infighting in the province of Buenos Aires and is staying far away from the battlefield.

--Marcelo Stubrin, 31, is also an attorney, a former university leader and a national deputy. A stylish-looking lawmaker, he is vice president of the Radical legislative bloc and one of the Coordinating Board's kingpins in the federal capital. Although he has a solid alliance with Nosiglia, Stubrin currently attaches priority to his legislative work and regards himself as a leader with his own influence whose ties to the Coordinating Board stem from his membership in it during his years as a youth activist. He is a growing force within Radicalism because of his brilliant congressional work and will most likely be the number one candidate for deputy in the November balloting, when he will be running for reelection.



Coti Nosiglia, Changui Caceres, Jesus Rodriguez, Marcelo Stubrin, Federico Storani.

--Jesus Rodriguez, 29, became chairman of the National Committee of Radical Youth in December 1984. He is a federal capital man with close ties to Nosiglia and his machine but is one of the leaders in direct contact with President Alfonsin. He has a degree in economic sciences and currently chairs the Budget and Finance Committee of the Chamber of Deputies. Many saw his assumption of the post (replacing the deceased Ruben Rabanal, a Buenos Aires opponent of the Coordinating Board) as a major victory for the youth sector. More experienced leaders shook their heads, however. "I don't know what good it does the Coordinating Board, whose young people lean towards extremist economic policies, to head up a committee on which they have to defend official policy without reservations," a Radical deputy told SOMOS. The fact is that Rodriguez took over as chairman of this major committee at the same time that Garcia Vazquez was removed from the Central Bank and that Juan Sourouille became economy minister (Sourouille has always enjoyed the respect of the Coordinating Board, which has never leveled criticism at him). Rodriguez and Entre Rios Senator Ricardo Laferriere (the only senator under the age of 40 and also a member of the Coordinating Board) are the main advocates of attacking the so-called "Financial Fatherland," among other things, by pushing through a sweeping reform of the financial system.

Opponents Voice Views

Buenos Aires SOMOS in Spanish 22 Mar 85 p 21

[Article by Luis Castellanos: "How They Are Seen"]

[Text] Not all of the politicians that SOMOS consulted chose to give their opinion of the National Coordinating Board of Radical Youth. This is understandable both in the case of the other Radical factions and the representatives of other parties, who for various reasons preferred not to involve themselves in the internal affairs of the ruling party.

This was the stand taken by the Intransigent Party, for example, as put forth by Nestor Vicente, who recently joined its ranks.

Another who declined to voice an opinion was Alvaro Alsogaray, from the Democratic Center Union. "I do not have enough background information to voice a well-informed opinion."

Peronist Diego Guelar, in contrast, asserted that the Coordinating Board "is a major source of support for President Alfonsin that has brought to the fore mainly the young leaders who emerged on the university political scene. I regard the charges that it is a Marxist group as totally groundless, though I should point out that they are pushing a program to turn Radicalism into a modern social democratic party."

Ricardo Balestra, a national deputy representing the Liberal Autonomist Pact of Corrientes, described the Coordinating Board as a "minority faction" within the Radical Party but "with a leftwing ideological slant."



Dante Gullo (Peronist Youth): "They are more concerned with Radical Party infighting than with the country's domestic situation."

Juan Carlos Dante Gullo, one of the top Peronist Youth leaders during the 1970's, said that "during the election campaign we thought that it represented a chance for renovation and change in Radicalism, but today we see that these expectations were not fulfilled and that the Coordinating Board is more concerned with Radical Party infighting than with the country's domestic situation."

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ARGENTINA

FUTURE GOVERNMENT-MILITARY RELATIONS DISCUSSED

Buenos Aires EL ECONOMISTA in Spanish 15 Mar 85 p 7

[Article by Alberto San Miguel: "The Government and the Armed Forces"]

[Text] In the wake of the ups-and-downs in the Armed Forces over the past week, the future relationship between the government and the military seems to be conditioned by three key issues: 1) The investigation into the struggle against subversion; 2) The Armed Forces' budgetary and pay problems; and 3) The relations between the branches now that a brigadier has been chosen to head the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

On the first issue, which is beyond question the most politically important, the government seems to realize that if it does not give the new military leadership specific guidelines for dealing with this issue, tensions could again surface in the months to come. The fact is that the mechanism established to limit the responsibility of the members of the Military Juntas and a few other individuals has undergone complications during the first 15 months of this administration, complications that have delayed the trials that began in December 1983 longer than was expected. In light of this situation, the Defense Ministry has begun analyzing a responsibility limitation law whose legal effect would be similar to the amnesty law's. Timing is a factor here, though, because such a law could be passed only if sentences have already been handed down in the trials of the members of the Military Juntas. The trial in the Federal Court will reportedly begin in April and could last until late May or even June. The second stage would be the Supreme Court, which would not rule on an appeal until September or so. Since the legislative elections are scheduled for 3 November and since a law like this would inevitably carry a political cost for the administration during the campaign, the issue of a responsibility limitation law could not be addressed seriously until December. Under these circumstances, the dilemma is how to defuse the tensions in the military stemming from the trials that the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces is hearing and that the civilian courts are demanding ever more loudly, given that right now there is no real possibility of a definitive solution to the problem.

The second issue is the Armed Forces budget and military pay, which although not as politically important as the investigations into the struggle against subversion, touches all Armed Forces personnel, including noncommissioned officers. The military pay issue is not separate from the issue of pay in the rest of the public sector. The resignation of many judges over the critical pay situation is an example for the military, given the similarity of the two professions. In light of this critical situation, which in addition to unrest has led to requests for retirement and widespread nonreenlistments, the Defense Ministry wants military paychecks issued on the first working day of the months starting in April; during the first quarter there were delays of up to 2 weeks.

Budget cuts are having a major impact on the military's operational capabilities. Since there is little leeway as the entire public sector is living on a tight budget, only a drastic reordering of military spending priorities can reverse the situation, which is leading to professional frustrations among young officers. The Defense Ministry also reportedly wants to do something about this, though no action seems possible in the short run inasmuch as the budget appropriations have already been assigned.

Last comes the tensions between branches, which have sharpened in recent days because of the appointment of an air force officer as head of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. The government will have to strike a delicate balance to prevent interbranch problems and feuding from triggering a crisis, which would have political, not just military repercussions. Most significantly, the plan for modernizing and revamping the military that the Joint Chiefs of Staff drew up under Lt Gen Fernandez Torres now seems dead and buried, given how the air force systematically criticized it in 1984. The air force's approach has created conflicts with the other two branches. The most heated one is with the navy, over naval aviation. The feud came to light already in 1984 after the navy and the air force clashed over the definition of the "air space."

Under these circumstances, the effectiveness of the new military leadership seems to be conditioned by these three issues and by the decisions that the constitutional government will ultimately make in this regard through the Defense Ministry.

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ARGENTINA

NATIONAL INFORMATICS POLICY BASED ON REGIONAL COOPERATION

Buenos Aires EL ECONOMISTA in Spanish 8 Mar 85 pp 8-9

[Text] Regional integration has thus far been one of the frustrating aspects of modern Latin American history. The achievements still fall short of satisfying the aspirations of those who see Latin American unity as a prerequisite for dealing with the current technological, economic and political challenges which are facing the region increasingly dramatically.

Informatics technology has a tremendous potential for advancing Latin American development to the extent that its use is properly directed and standardized. It is also a goal and a tool for regional integration action.

As a goal of the process of the integration, informatics is a sector with an extremely rich potential for regional cooperation, because of several factors: (a) its strategic nature in terms of growth and its influence on world production and trade patterns; (b) the scope of the scientific and technological effort needed to follow developments in the sector; (c) the role enterprises from outside the region play today and the overall implications of their strategy on regional development; (d) the limited dimensions of the domestic markets, taken separately, with a view to a process of industrialization; and (e) the community of cultural and language values and similarity, although not identity, existing in various aspects of economic and social development.

As a tool of integration, informatics, above all when married to communications, can contribute significantly to establishing the foundations for more effective and extensive integration. In this connection, it can give impetus to the intraregional exchange of data, strengthen scientific-technical and cultural relations, and facilitate trade in goods and services and business cooperation in the productive and technological field.

The National Policy

Regional integration of and through informatics will not however be a spontaneous phenomenon, however much the reality of things demonstrates its advantages and even the urgency of taking concrete steps in this direction. It will have to be the product of the definition of joint strategies, and the identification of specific areas for complementary and cooperative effort.

It demands as a prerequisite a definition of the national policies for the sector, a task in which, using different backgrounds for implementation, Brazil, Cuba, Mexico and our country, and to a lesser extent, Colombia, have already made progress.

The first two countries mentioned are those which have progressed the farthest to date in the implementation of informatics policies, developing their own productive capacity. For example in Brazil, 85 percent of the informatics market is supplied thanks to domestic production, of which approximately half corresponds to domestic enterprises, particularly in the micro- and mini-computer and peripheral sectors. Where Mexico is concerned, emphasis has been placed on production for export, among other mechanisms, through the establishment of joint venture undertakings with multinational enterprises, while in Colombia, the microcomputer complex, the development of software and the application of informatics to education have been stressed. In our country, the national policy recently established by the National Informatics Commission (Decree No 621/84) promotes selective industrial development with a strong local technological development and absorption component.

These policies, and those which are taking shape in more incipient fashion in other countries in the region, share a series of goals. Leading among them are standardizing the introduction of informatics, making its use in the public sector rational, promoting local sources of software, achieving an advance in scientific and technical knowledge in the sector, reducing the impact of this sector on the balance of payments, strengthening the role of the national sectors in the productive and technological realms, establishing the rules of the game for the acceptance and use of foreign capital and asserting the capacity for national decision in the various aspects affected by the informatics phenomenon.

Cooperation Levels and Sectors

A realistic outline for intraregional cooperation requires establishment of the existence of at least three levels of interaction.

1. On the government-to-government level, it is possible to create mechanisms for the exchange of data, the joint discussion of problems of mutual interest, technical aid in studies or projects, the definition of standards for strengthening negotiation capacity and specific tasks such as those pertaining to technical norms and protocols. The importance of planning for harmonization in this last respect should be noted here, including respect for functional systems which do not depend on specific makers, with a view to facilitating compatibility, the regional data flow and technological and industrial cooperation.

2. On the scientific-technical level, there are many opportunities for interaction without cost in foreign exchange to the participating countries, through the exchange of teachers and students, attendance at congresses and seminars, bibliographic support and the development of joint projects and coordination of research and development activities. Given the complexity,

scope and cost of the effort required, it is vitally necessary to find forms of cooperative and complementary action in this field, which includes micro-electronics, hardware, software and telecommunications.

3. On the business level, the potential opportunities are many, but they will certainly follow a slower rate of implementation than those on other levels, above all if productive and technological cooperation modalities are sought. On the one hand, this is because this type of link requires a certain maturing following a greater mutual understanding, while on the other hand being due to the great disparities which currently exist in the industrial development of this sector throughout the region.

A more rapid advance can be made in the commercial aspect, provided that formulas for balanced exchange can be found, formulas which will reduce the outlay of foreign exchange, while respecting the industrialization policies initiated in each country.

With this philosophy of successive, concrete and organic steps, it is desirable to plan the effort in a succession of concentric circles, using formulas gradually extended to an ever larger number of countries. Multilateral activity should be the goal but it cannot be the point of departure. Failure to recognize this would lead to frustration of the real potential for action and would cause the weight of the disparities to sink us.

The Steps Taken and the Future

Based on the definition of a national informatics policy, our country has undertaken various measures designed to implement the goals set forth. The following among them should be stressed:

--Argentine participation in the 8th Conference of Latin American Informatics Authorities (Mexico, November 1984). At that conference the Argentine delegation set forth the need to define a regional strategy with a view to autonomous development of the informatics sector. The country undertook a commitment to carry out studies and proposals, in collaboration with other countries in the region, in the areas of informatics contracts, establishment of a Latin American network of data banks and international data flows. The participating countries unanimously asked Argentina to serve as the host country for the next conference and to take on the permanent secretariat in 1986.

--Memorandum of understanding with Brazil, drafted in connection with a visit paid by authorities in and representatives of the scientific-technical and business sectors last January. The memorandum calls for mechanisms to increase the exchange of information, to step up regional cooperation to develop informatics, to sponsor the creation of a mixed group on technical norms and to initiate joint research and development projects, among other points of concrete cooperative agreement.

--Proposal that the Latin American Economic System (SELA) initiate consultations with a view to establishing mechanisms for cooperation in the informatics and electronics sectors (Decision No 221/84 of the Latin American Council).

--Scheduling of a meeting to be held in the course of this year in Buenos Aires, with six Latin American countries participating, in order to advance in the implementation of cooperative actions.

On the other hand, so that Argentina can resume the role it played in the past with regard to the training of human resources in Latin America, the plan for the establishment of a Higher Informatics Sciences School provides for the establishment of scholarships in the region as a basic part of its activity. Thus an effort will be made to guarantee the participation of Latin American students and teachers in courses, lectures and academic and professional meetings.

Through these efforts, the country has taken the initiative in making the regional dimensions which our national informatics policy must necessarily have a reality, in the conviction that there can only be autonomous development of informatics in Latin America within the framework of increasing and effective regional integration.

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ARGENTINA

MILITARY CHANGES, EXTERNAL POLITICAL PRESSURES VIEWED

Buenos Aires EL ECONOMISTA in Spanish 8 Mar 85 pp 4-5

[Article by Rodolfo Pandolfi]

[Text] The outcome of the frictions and the changes, above and beyond intentions, was the retirement of General Pianta and of the generals who ranked above Gen Hector Rios Erenu, whether or not they were critics of their predecessor. The changes in the army have, of course, followed those in the other branches, thus raising a number of questions about the future.

The first question mark, and the most important one as this article is being written, is the role that the Joint Chiefs of Staff will really play henceforth. With its move the administration sought to reaffirm the principle that the military was subordinate to the civilian government. There are several possibilities now open, but by Wednesday the army chief of staff had already made proposals concerning his team. He spoke of Gen Victor Pino as assistant chief of staff, of Abatte as chief 1 (personnel), of Bonifacino as chief 2 (intelligence), of Flores as chief 3 (operations) and of Perez Dorrego as chief 4 (finances and logistics). The appointments of the new corps commanders are still pending.

The picture must be rounded out with the appointment of the commander of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, changes in the navy and air force, the new appointments and, later on, the passage of a National Defense Law that embodies the current philosophy. In order to consolidate the republican legal system and the principle of governmental authority, however, the administration must urgently take several complementary steps that will have political repercussions:

- a) Convey the unmistakable impression that in all its essential areas the government supports the nation's Armed Forces and that the aim of the punishments, the investigations and the replacements is precisely to defend the military and restore its prestige.
- b) Resolve the serious problem of temporary incompatibility stemming from the delays in adapting military structures to the philosophy

that the administration has set forth. In other words, if the military budget was cut from six to three percent, the goal was to scale back the Armed Forces and make them more, not less efficient operationally. However, if the military is supposed to retain almost the same structure as before with just three percent of the budget, then the financial problem becomes serious and will have an adverse impact on reoutfitting and pay. Rounding out the issue is the real need to calm the country by clearly establishing who gave the orders and who carried them out.

The crisis seems to have brought out three key army figures who are clearly democrats: the new chief of staff, Gen Hector Rios Erenu; the new assistant chief of staff, Gen Victor Pino, a former commander of Corps II, and the new training inspector, Gen Mario Jaime Sanchez. The three men belong to the infantry, are from the class of 1981 and are staff officers, and two of them (Pino and Sanchez) are paratroopers. The three are supporters of the constitutional system and want to preserve the intermediate levels of command. Gen Rios Erenu's initial remarks and the radio message that he sent to all units reaffirmed the principles of subordination and loyalty, as well as the need for sacrifices not only for the good of the country but also to bring the military once and for all back into the system.

The final outcome was not achieved without some unpleasantness and tension, though at no time did they reach the presidential level. In any event, a very important chapter has yet to be concluded, the real role of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, a key element in the scaling back of the military.

Other Tensions

One of the criticisms that the inner circles of the ruling party most often leveled at the administration was that it suffered from a sentimentality that could inhibit some decision-making.

We must understand the tremendous loneliness of power and the need that presidents have to rely on close and proven friends, people who share not just the same ideas but also, to a degree, the same background.

The Radical Party has a veteran team that has struggled long and hard: Raul Alfonsin, German Lopez, Raul Borrás, Edison Otero, Bernardo Grinspun and Roque Carranza, among others. President Alfonsin has shown that he can also reach out to men who are not Radicals and make them his close collaborators. He has now shown, however, that emotional considerations play a role, but are not the only factor, in his decision-making. It went almost unnoticed that at more or less the same time that Grinspun resigned, another old friend and partner of his, Dante Giaddone, stepped down as well, though the president had frequent disagreements with him, especially on the

so-called military issue. The secretary of state intelligence, Roberto Penna, resigned as well around that time, though he then took on a new job in the Presidency of the Nation.

Perhaps the most important political element in Juan Sourrouille's speech was that he emphasized the importance of growth and modernization for the development of democracy. These two words mean something in the world of ideas, because modernization is inseparable from a political updating. As a result of 54 years of instability and coups d'etat, more than just the Argentine economy has deteriorated, so much so that Domingo Cavalli could cite only Honduras as an example of greater stagnation. Political ideas have also stagnated because they have not received stimulation from new viewpoints or have received it inefficiently. The stagnation is, almost certainly, less serious in the Radical than in the Peronist Party, but it exists nevertheless.

The dynamics of Argentina's place in the world are a very specific issue for political analysis. The circumstances are especially complex.

The United States has achieved the greatest influence in history in the northern part of the Western Hemisphere. Europe, which carefully tried its hand at third-power politics in Charles De Gaulle's time, is feeling the American presence more than ever now. If we look back 10 or 15 years, we will see that there were three rightwing dictatorships in Europe then: Spain, Portugal and Greece. They were totally unable to cope with the contemporary debate and fell apart. De Gaulle's regime and even West German Social Democracy during the time of Willy Brandt occupied a space that would have vanished only in the horrible event of a wartime polarization. The 1962 missile crisis showed how minor policy differences vanish suddenly when war is imminent; France stopped trying to be a third power at that juncture.

Now, however, the United States is engaged in an ideological offensive that will last through Alfonsin's entire term as president, although after Reagan leaves the White House the Democrats could well make a comeback. It is symptomatic that there is so much talk today about the heterogeneous yet convergent terms "conservative revolution" and "new Right." In the economic and social arenas, the gravity of the crisis has been a formidable obstacle to the Center-Left. In the cultural sphere, many of the assumptions of the progressives are being challenged today; issues such as China's incredible political and economic turnaround are part of this picture.

Nevertheless, Alfonsin, who is familiar with the evolution of ideas in the world, also knows that the countries of Latin America, especially Argentina, oppose a hardline U.S. policy in Nicaragua and, above all, direct intervention. Alfonsin has these considerations in mind as he prepares to meet Ronald Reagan and hold talks that will be crucial to the destiny of Argentine democracy over the next 10 years.

The two presidents will be measuring their words carefully in explaining their views as they search for a new sort of relationship between Argentina and the United States.

A Test

The municipal elections in Campo Grande in the province of Rio Negro were no more important than other such elections; at the same time, however, they were a very interesting kind of poll.

In 1983, the Christian Democrats had been victorious in the municipality, with the Peronists coming in second and the Radical Civic Union third (with less than 200 votes). This time the Radical Party won with 882 votes (61 percent) against 529 for the Peronists (36.7 percent). The votes that the Christian Democrats happened to get a year and a half ago vanished as quickly as they had appeared, as the party was selected on just 23 ballots. Four people handed in blank ballots. Interestingly, there was again a very high turnout, as 92 percent voted.

Local developments are unquestionably the reason for the Radical "boom." The people of Campo Grande had been fighting for some time for local autonomy, and although they were recently awarded it by the Rio Negro legislature with the support of Peronism, the fact that it came under a Radical government carried more weight.

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ARGENTINA

FAMUS-SPONSORED MASS ATTRACTS LARGE PUBLIC

Buenos Aires LA NACION in Spanish 15 Mar 85 p 8

[Text] The mass organized by the Family Members and Friends of Those Killed by Subversion (FAMUS) was held yesterday at the Basilica of St Francis, at the corner of Alsina and Defensa.

The religious ceremony was attended by numerous high-ranking officers and commanders, both on active duty and retired, in numbers substantially larger than at the previous masses organized by that body.

Those present included, among others, Admiral Isaac Rojas, former president Gen Reynaldo Bignone, former Minister of Interior Llamil Reston, Rear Admiral Busser, Maj Gens Alfredo Saint Jean, Rodolfo Wehner, Eduardo Crespi, Ovidio Riccheri, Albano Harguindegui and Antonio Bussi and Ramon Genaro Diaz Bessone, as well as other high-ranking officers and commanders. Among the officers on active duty, young officers, for example some heads of lower departments and subalternates in uniform, could be seen. Also present was the wife of former president Jorge Videla. The number of persons attending exceeded the capacity of the church, and many individuals were unable to get inside.

The sermon was delivered by the superior of the basilica, Friar Juan Antonio Ambrosioni, who quoted the words of St Francis of Assisi to console the families and friends of the deceased honored at the ceremony.

"Where there is hatred, we must give love; where there is insult, we urge pardon; where there is error, we seek the truth; where there is despair, we struggle for hope," the priest said in his homily.

Following the Mass

After the mass, the congregation gathered slowly in the courtyard of the church, where, as is the custom of congregations at FAMUS masses, they sang the Argentine national anthem and cheered the fatherland.

Later, prior to the departure of the bulk of the congregation, Admiral Isaac Francisco Rojas was saluted as he left with shouts of "Long Live Admiral Rojas!" There were then cheers in salute to the armed forces, and finally, shouts of "death to the radical dictatorship" rang out.

PATROL UNITS STRENGTHEN FORCE TO DEAL WITH CRIME WAVE

Buenos Aires LA NACION in Spanish 15 Mar 85 p 12

[Text] La Plata--The Greater Buenos Aires regional units received new mobile patrol vehicles yesterday. A ceremony was held in front of the Moron municipal building in this connection, where provincial police units and the brand new vehicles were reviewed by the authorities, including the undersecretary of interior, Dr Raul Galvan; the provincial minister of government, Dr Juan Antonio Portesi, who made the formal presentation on behalf of the provincial government; the first vice president of the Buenos Aires Senate, Amilcar Zufriategui; the chief of the police force, Commissioner General Walter Ruben Stafanini, and the intendant of Moron, Dr Norberto Garcia Silva.

The numbers of patrol cars received by the regional units in the urban sector were as follows: six for Moron, seven for Lanus, seven for San Martin, eight for Tigre, seven for Quilmes and two for La Matanza.

At the ceremony, Dr Portesi said that "the provincial urban sector is bearing up stoically under a lengthy and difficult situation in the battle between the authorities and crime. It is for this reason that we are beginning to reequip the police vehicle fleet. Tomorrow," he added, "an automobile plant in this western zone will deliver 50 more vehicles, and the same will occur in the coming days with the delivery of 120 new patrol cars, such that within a few weeks, the automotive fleet will have been increased by 208 new units."

Cordoba--in a ceremony at which the governor of the province, Dr Eduardo Angeloz, will preside, 200 brand new and fully equipped vehicles will be added to the fleet of the Cordoba Radio-Dispatched Police Command.

The expansion of the fleet is a part of the official program designed to provide the security body with better technical facilities for carrying out its specific mission.

This plan will be supplemented by the addition of similar vehicles for the use of regional units in the interior of the province.

This ceremony will take place next Monday, when the government minister, Dr Palmero, will provide details concerning the reequipping and technical advance of the police force.

ARGENTINA

BRIEFS

ARMY COMMANDER ARRESTED--The Armed Forces Supreme Council requested a restraining order yesterday in Judge Hector Oyola's (El Chamental, La Rioja) court proceedings against Fifth Army Second Commander General Jose Malagamba, while Army Commander General Hector Rios Erenu met with Army Auditor General Raul Ramayo to prepare a request for Malagamba's release from prison. Oyola, who ordered Malagamba's arrest on Wednesday for the alleged murder of two priests in 1976, said he had also handed out an arrest warrant against retired Commodore Luis Estrella, who was stationed at the El Chamental Air Force Base at that time. El Chamental police confirmed that two former police chiefs and three civilians were also under arrest. The civilians confessed belonging to an illegal repressive task force which, together with military, both in active service and retirement (whom they claim had been based with the Army's 141st Corps of Engineers and the Air Force Base in El Chamental), kidnapped and murdered the priests. Theoretically, Oyola can accept the council's petition and forward the case to the military court or affirm his competence to reside over the trial, which would then probably go onto the National Court of Appeals for a ruling. [Text] [Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 12 Apr 85 p 11 PY]

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CHILE

ECONOMIC COUNCIL SEEN STEP TOWARD DEMOCRATIC REPRESENTATION

Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 24 Mar 85 Sunday Supplement pp D4-D5

[Interview with Beltran Urenda Zegers, chairman of the Economic and Social Council, by Raquel Correa; date, time and place not given]

[Text] Among the "new men" that have been brought in recently, we must include this man, who overnight emerged as the head of the Economic and Social Council (CES). That agency has apparently become the apple of the regime's eye.

A native of Valparaiso, like Gen Pinochet and his equally new minister of the interior, this man is an attorney specializing in tax and shipping matters. He is no Onassis, however: "Not even a little boat," he says, as affable as his brother Carlos, who headed the commission that studied the problem of the banks subject to intervention.

Beltran Urenda Zegers (65, married to Maria Elena Salamanca, 8 children) has no political experience other than his membership in the Conservative Party, first, and then the National Party, "as a mere soldier."

He says that before joining the CES (in his capacity as president of the National Association of Chilean Shipowners), he had had nothing to do with the government, "except as a supporter." In the past, however, he was a professor of commercial law, and one of his students was the current cabinet chief, Ricardo Garcia. "Ricardo is brilliant," he asserts. "He was an excellent student, perhaps the best I had in 8 years."

[Question] What kind of relationship do you have with former Minister Jarpa?

[Answer] One of great friendship and affection. At one time we were correligionists.

[Question] Did he bring you into the Economic and Social Council?

[Answer] He appointed me.

[Question] Did it ever occur to you that you would have to replace him?

[Answer] Never! That was a complete surprise to me.

[Question] Don't you feel a little uncomfortable, as if you were betraying him by ending up chairing the Council after his departure from the government?

[Answer] No, not at all. Because Sergio Onofre Jarpa really believed in the Economic and Social Council, and he was a vital factor in its formation and implementation. I am certain that I am carrying out Jarpa's wishes by trying to do my job as well as possible.

Flunked the Test

Noting that he is not part of the government's political team, and speaking strictly as an individual, he goes into detail about current issues. He says he understands the reason for the state of siege. "The country is more tranquil now," he says.

[Question] Is it more tranquil, or does it just appear more tranquil?

[Answer] It is more tranquil. And the future looks clearer now.

[Question] The government has said that it has begun a new stage. Is that the end of the liberalization, and the beginning of a hiatus until 1989, now that the Constitution has been passed?

[Answer] I would not say a hiatus (he replies, after repeating that his opinions are personal and do not reflect those of the Shipowners Association or the CES). My impression, as a citizen, is that a couple of years ago social and political unrest began to emerge, eventually reaching a high degree of turbulence that threatened not only public order, but the very stability of the country's institutions. That could be in response to many legitimate concerns, but it was undeniably also politically orchestrated from abroad. Given these circumstances, it was apparently deemed appropriate to change the course of the Constitution, and eventually to propose some modifications such as the installation of a congress before 1989, as well as the legalization of political parties. Although I have nothing in particular against politicians, I sincerely believe that they were not on top of things. I am referring to all of them, the whole gamut. I got the impression that they had not learned any lesson from Popular Unity or the significance of 11 September.

[Question] Has the country flunked the test?

[Answer] The politicians flunked the test.

[Question] Do you think that the state of siege, with restrictions on the press and on political debate, will teach them the lesson?

[Answer] It will make the whole country reflect a little. Naturally, the restrictions are not nice; they appear very harsh. But actually, other Latin American countries that claim to be democracies envy us our tranquility, our order, even the cleanliness of our cities. Specifically, look at what is happening in Bolivia . . .

[Question] Do you think it is possible for a country to remain in a state of emergency for a long time?

[Answer] No, that would be very risky. But frankly, this regime, this strong government that rules us is not so harsh.

Participation

[Question] How much social participation is there in the country today? Or do you see a government that rules and a nation that is excluded?

[Answer] Certainly, the degree of participation is not ideal. However, especially outside of Santiago, there is an increasing amount of participation; people feel that they have left traditional politics behind, and believe that the government is interpreting national ideals along general lines, although they may disagree with some specific measures or certain policies, for example in terms of the economy. People want to participate.

[Question] At what level do you see this desire to participate: among businessmen, or among the general public?

[Answer] I have a more intimate understanding of the business sector. Participation of businessmen in public affairs is clearly greater than before. Since Jarpa (in political matters) and Escobar (in economic matters), businessmen have found official doors open to them, and they have been heard, if not always listened to. The same goes for union leaders.

[Question] Hasn't that situation changed with Garcia-Buchi?

[Answer] I would say that this situation will not change.

At the Top

[Question] As for social participation, don't you think that the neighborhood boards, the mothers' centers, the trade union and professional institutions are enough, so that an Economic and Social Council with 99 members appointed by the chief of state is superfluous as a conduit for participation?

[Answer] The grassroots organizations will have a legal voice in the CODECOS [expansion unknown] on the community level. The community concerns will be conveyed to the regional level through the Regional Development Councils (COREDES). The Economic and Social Council has its *raison d'être* at the national level, as a channel of communication with the government.

[Question] In a letter sent to the Council last 27 September, Gen Pinochet instructed the CES to "study its own charter" and stated that it "is designed to be the top of the institutional pyramid of social participation, in which true democracy lies." He added that "it should contribute to the articulation of political and social power in the top echelon of national institutions." How do you interpret these words?

[Answer] The top echelon--in other words the government--will receive two currents: the political one, expressed through the political parties and Parliament, and the social one, which will originate in the CODECOS and pass through the COREDES and finally the Economic and Social Council. If these currents of expression did not exist, there could be no articulation or merging at the top, because there would be just one channel. In making major decisions, the government must draw on these two currents, the political and the social.

Political River

[Question] At the beginning of the 1984 legislative session, Adm Merino stated that that would be the year of political laws. But they did not materialize. This year, he said that the Legislature's working organs "must continue to devote themselves to the processing of organic, constitutional legislation on political issues." In your opinion, is the flow of the political river being speeded up or obstructed?

[Answer] There is no doubt that it is moving more slowly now. There are problems of priority. The idea of reforming the Constitution to install a Congress at an earlier date has been stalled. Meanwhile, however, there is the task of putting together the entire framework of full democracy.

[Question] What for, if it won't be used until 1990?

[Answer] The promulgation of political laws depends on various circumstances. I think that, hopefully as soon as possible, all the laws designed to complement the Constitution will be passed. We must realize that time is flying. When the president installed us as councilmembers, he told us: "We have a tremendous task to carry out in the legislative area, and time is running out. We have only seven 6-month periods left to carry out this task." We cannot still be hammering out laws a couple of weeks before 11 March 1989. These tasks are slower and more difficult than one could imagine. There is a series of complementary laws--not political--that the country also needs, such as the CODECOS and the COREDES, the law of the Economic and Social Council itself, the Ministry of the Sea, the problems of exports . . .

[Question] Do you agree with the officials who claim that the political laws should be studied and implemented as a whole?

[Answer] Personally, I think that the political laws are interrelated and should be studied and analyzed as a whole, though it is not necessary to promulgate them all on the same day.

[Question] Why was the political parties law studied so much earlier than all the others?

[Answer] Sometimes circumstances force us to take certain attitudes. Certainly the parties law was given preference so that we would have valid interlocutors. But the political leaders said that they were not willing to cooperate with the government, that they did not recognize the Constitution

and the government. So the government must continue its journey toward the institutionalization of the country without them.

[Question] Do you favor legalizing the parties?

[Answer] It is to be hoped that the political laws will emerge as soon as possible, without causing a serious disturbance of another kind. It would be very useful to have clear rules of the game so that the country can progress normally.

Regional Voice

[Question] You have emphasized the value of the fact that the Economic and Social Council has representatives from all regions. Would you like to see regional political parties in the future?

[Answer] No. But I do think it would be useful for an organization to be made up of people who represent different interests. Our mission is to provide advice and consultation, and to interpret national concerns for the president of the republic. This should be a forum where representatives of employers, professionals and workers can meet. Actually, this is the only nationwide organization, with considerable influence in the country, that has a majority of representatives from the different regions. In this regard, the Council is a very useful organization for combatting centralism.

[Question] Some people fear that it will become a corporate entity, in which all interests except for the national interest are represented . . .

[Answer] That is a matter of political philosophy which is quite complex. But it is wrong to think that just because an organization comprises people who represent interests, it ignores the national interest.

[Question] William Thayer, a member of the Council of State, has said that this Council is mostly advisory and not very representative . . .

[Answer] I don't agree. He fears that in an organization of this kind the accent will be on private interests, above national interests. So far, that has not happened. I am confident that such will always be the case. Furthermore, private interests will always be in the minority in any specific case.

Vacuum

[Question] Do you emphasize the advisory or the participatory function of the Economic and Social Council?

[Answer] Advising is part of its function, and today it is fundamental. President Pinochet has told us that because the Council is made up of representatives of a broad range of activities, it is in a position to express national sentiments, and therefore can provide a well-founded opinion, a more appropriate consultation.

[Question] More appropriate than the Council of State?

[Answer] They are completely different. The opinion of the Council of State is that of a much smaller, more elite group . . .

[Question] It has representatives of the youth, workers, women . . .

[Answer] But it is a narrower organization than the Economic and Social Council.

[Question] Will it end up engulfing the Council of State eventually?

[Answer] Traditionally, the Councils of State have played an advisory role high up in the political hierarchy, and have been very useful in the refining of legislation. The Economic and Social Council, on the other hand, represents the broader viewpoints of the regions, the different national activities. I think that the Council of State could return to what it was in the last century, or what it is in other countries: a high-level advisory body.

[Question] What do you think of the need to complement the legislative process with a council made up of experts and representatives of the various currents of thought?

[Answer] The ideal is to improve the legislative committees gradually, to have greater participation by regional representatives, and hopefully more transparency in the legislative process.

[Question] In December, the former vice president of this Council, Gustavo Cuevas Farren, claimed that "in view of the failure of political participation, we must explore the channel of social participation." Do you think that this organization is the appropriate body to fulfill that function?

[Answer] No. This Council is supposed to complement, to fill a vacuum. Without detracting from the political function, there are other forms of citizen expression, of participation.

[Question] Are you referring to the so-called grassroots democracy?

[Answer] I would say so, that that is grassroots democracy. It is wonderful to vote, but participation does not end there. When there were elections, most people did not know the candidates and had no way of making their voices heard, of expressing their concerns.

[Question] Do you propose to replace representative democracy with direct democracy?

[Answer] No. I believe in representative democracy, but we must complement the political channel with that other channel that provides the general public with a means of expressing its opinions and being heard. It doesn't seem right to me to make such an absolute and clear-cut separation.

"Fundamental Pillar"

[Question] It is significant that the last three political speeches by government representatives--Gen Pinochet and Ministers Rosende and Garcia--mentioned the Economic and Social Council. To what do you attribute the importance they are giving it?

[Answer] In the first place, there is a circumstantial factor. The Economic and Social Council appeared to the nation to have been created by Minister Jarpa. The man in the street may have thought that if he left, the Council would disappear.

The first week in March a session was supposed to take place in Valparaiso. Initially, it was suspended indefinitely. Gen Sinclair, the minister secretary general of the presidency, called in a group of councilmembers and told us that the president not only wanted to keep the Economic and Social Council, but wanted to strengthen it; that he felt it was important for it not to be headed by a minister but rather to be more autonomous, communicating with the president through the minister secretary general of the presidency. The minister of the interior, as the political chief of the cabinet, has too many other concerns and a great number of tasks. As a result of the earthquake, the session was held in Santiago. To dispel any doubts about whether the Economic and Social Council would continue to exist and be strengthened, the president himself attended that session.

[Question] And you said that the Economic and Social Council will become "a fundamental pillar of the republic's institutions." What did you mean by those words?

[Answer] We believe that the Council will become a permanent organ of grassroots participation, with respect to economic and social problems.

[Question] But in the Political Constitution of the State there is not one word about the Economic and Social Council . . .

[Answer] The Constitution did mention the CODECOS and COREDES, but in my view it did not complete the idea. Because each COREDE will inevitably reflect regional views. Therefore, we need an organization that will bring together all the interests of the nation. For this purpose, the Constitution must complement the idea of the CODECOS and COREDES with a law promulgated by the president and Congress by virtue of the legislative powers vested in them.

Constitutional Rank

[Question] The minister of justice said in his speech last 11 March that "progress is being made in the studies aimed at providing the necessary legal grounds, even with precepts on the same level--that is, the constitutional rank--if necessary, for a top-level integral organization such as the Economic and Social Council."

[Answer] I think it would be better for the republic if the Economic and Social Council were rooted in the Constitution. That would give it greater

permanence, but it can carry out its functions with a law. Logically, it is easier to change a regulation than a law, and it is easier to change a law than a constitution. It would be useful, but not essential, for it to have constitutional rank.

[Question] Giving it constitutional rank would require an amendment to the Constitution, which would have to be done with a plebiscite.

[Answer] Obviously.

[Question] Government officials have insisted that not a comma will be changed in the Constitution, that it will be enforced just as it was approved.

[Answer] The Constitution can be modified. Indeed, the Constitution itself contains a provision for its modification . . . Now, my impression is that no constitutional reform will take place for the sole purpose of establishing the Economic and Social Council. Sooner or later, the time will come when the Constitution will be changed; then the modification that I think is appropriate could be introduced, but it is not indispensable, because that function could be served by a law.

[Question] It is noteworthy that that announcement was made by the minister of justice on such a solemn occasion as the fourth anniversary of the Constitution, as he spoke on behalf of the chief of state. He affirmed that "all the provisions (of the Constitution) will be enforced without exception and without reservation."

[Answer] In my view, the goal is to legislate this matter if necessary. I personally think it would be a useful and appropriate step . . . As for the Constitution not being modified and being enforced without exceptions or reservations, . . . we must bear in mind that the great debate in this country revolves around respect for and adherence to the Constitution. The nation is divided between those who consider it legitimate and contend that it must be respected, and those who claim it is illegitimate, and that a Constituent Assembly should draft another constitution. In view of this situation, the government is reasserting the validity of the constitution that was approved, that is governing us and that provides the framework for our institutional life, like it or not.

[Question] In sum, what effect would constitutional rank have on the Economic and Social Council?

[Answer] It would have more permanence and stability.

[Question] Would you like it to be able to introduce legislation?

[Answer] I have doubts about the appropriateness of the Economic and Social Council being able to introduce legislation. The Council can serve a very important function, but it must not be diverted from its purpose. The political temptation is very strong.

[Question] Moreover, that would be unconstitutional: Only the Executive and the Legislature can introduce legislation.

[Answer] The Constitution would have to be amended. I think that organizations are judged by the quality of their action. If in the future the Council expresses the need to pass a law, its opinions will certainly influence the Executive or the Legislature.

[Question] Some fear that the Economic and Social Council will become a parallel legislative body . . .

[Answer] No way. That would destroy its *raison d'être*. Nor do I advocate any intermediate body--whether it be participative, consultative or whatever--becoming a source of political power or decision-making.

Advisory Duplication

[Question] It is noted that there is a duplication of advisory capacities and of organizations, such as the Council of State, the Advisory Commission on Constitutional Organic Laws, the Economic and Social Council . . .

[Answer] We are an advisory organization; we will not make legislation.

[Question] But if legislation has to go through so many parallel advisory processes, doesn't this hinder rather than help the legislative process?

[Answer] In this country, we are "decanting" an entire organization, distilling various elements. It is clear that the government has been trying out different formulas, and it gave the Council of State a broader structure than it traditionally had. Little by little, we are completing and perfecting the organization of the government. A new set of institutions is being created in the country, from a new constitution to a whole new set of laws. In any case, the organizations are not the same. The Economic and Social Council, for example, is different from the Council of State--as I was telling you--although they may be confused now because there is no parliament or political parties which would normally generate the legislation and serve as conduits for public opinion. For this reason, the government must gather together from all sectors the views of the citizenry, as expressed through organizations of varied composition.

[Question] Doesn't so much organic and inorganic consultation hinder the actions of the Executive itself, contradicting even the ministers of state, who are the presidential advisers par excellence?

[Answer] It will be up to the president of the republic to compare and evaluate the various recommendations and advice. The problem of parallelism is dangerous in decision-making, not in consultation.

8926

CSO: 3348/546

CHILE

MINISTER PROMISES STRICT COMPLIANCE WITH LABOR LAWS

Santiago TERCERA DE LA HORA in Spanish 24 Mar 85 p 11

[Text] Labor Minister Alfonso Marquez de la Plata reiterated that the services under his jurisdiction intend to supervise the enforcement of labor and benefit laws as a factor in social harmony. The secretary of state indicated that "the country's current labor legislation represents a major advance over the former system that prevailed in this area, during the time when our country was ruled by demagoguery and politicking."

Marquez de la Plata spoke on the occasion of a seminar sponsored by CINTAL [expansion unknown] on the labor reform represented by Law 18,372 as applied to Decree-Law 2,200 on individual employment contracts. The current law applies to all workers, thereby doing away with privileges that had been accorded to certain unions as a result of political and parliamentary maneuvering, in terms of both individual and collective labor rights. These privileges led to many vices, such as the manipulation of strikes for political ends, which the provisions of the old Labor Code were unable to control.

The minister emphasized that the passage of Decree-Law 2,756 on union organization and Decree-Law 2,758 on collective bargaining, both promulgated in 1979, has led to the establishment of a "free and autonomous" legal trade union movement, "which gives the workers the broadest freedom to form or join the institutions set forth by the law, and provides these institutions with the means to carry out their work within the broad range of activities assigned them by the law within the sphere of strictly union-related matters."

"The drafters of the law took special care to establish norms that would prevent these obligations from being subordinated to political influences, as happened in the past," stated the secretary.

He also praised the strictly technical orientation of collective bargaining, which assures the workers of a suitable mechanism for defending their rights, within the economic limitations of the employers.

The minister mentioned Law 18,372, which rectified certain aspects of Decree-Law 2,200 that needed to be adjusted after it was found that unscrupulous employers were taking advantage of loopholes in the latter.

Equality

He stressed that the benefits provided by this law include the elimination of "the need of the company" as a cause for discharging an employee, the inability of an employer to change a collective contract to an individual one on his own initiative, and others.

Marquez de la Plata spoke of the need to maintain harmony in labor relations on the basis of mutual cooperation and understanding between labor and management. "Only sufficient harmony in the labor sector will ensure constant development and progress for the entire nation," emphasized the minister, "especially considering that legal provisions have been laid down to protect both sides. Therefore, the government will be unyielding in its enforcement of labor laws and provisions."

8926

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CHILE

EARTHQUAKE EXACERBATES POLITICAL SCHISM

Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 24 Mar 85 p B-10

[Text] The seismic and political repercussions of the violent earthquake that killed nearly 150 people this month are still being felt in Chile. Hardly a day goes by without new temblors that fray already ragged nerves, and new accusations that the military regime of President Augusto Pinochet mismanaged the crisis. Such assertions meet with swift counter-accusations of political opportunism.

Although all sectors call for national unity for this common objective, politicians have said that the disaster served only to widen the rifts in a society that was already splintered. In the port city of San Antonio, where few buildings escaped damage, residents are still receiving their water from tank trucks weeks after the quake of 3 March. They are doubtful that they will be able to replace the roofs on their demolished houses before the fall rains begin.

The tensions between the government and the Church, each of which organized its own aid efforts, have been most visible in the city. The leftist political parties hope to capitalize on the discontent during 2 days of protest on 27 and 29 March, in a continuation of their broad campaign for a rapid return to democracy. Although government officials and the Church have both said that the problems between them were cleared up, the use of troops to prevent a rally organized by the Church's Radio Chilena a week after the earthquake was a graphic illustration of the suspicion and mistrust that have built up over 11 years of military rule.

The Permanent Committee of the Episcopal Conference last week issued a statement calling for solidarity in the aid efforts. It also expressed, however, the Church's concern about human rights and the poor, both issues about which the Pinochet government is highly sensitive.

"Worse than this earthquake is the impoverishment and exclusion of many brothers from the eating table and the decision-making table," stated the bishops.

Mistrust of "Community Potlucks"

Ricardo Reyes, the parish priest of San Antonio, said that the authorities are very mistrustful of the "community potlucks" organized by the Church. More than 5,000 people were receiving their meals in this form, contributing in accordance with their abilities and receiving in accordance with their needs--a system that smacks of socialism to the military authorities and is therefore difficult for them to accept.

"Perhaps the authorities see the potluck as something that makes the government look bad," stated Reyes.

Discontent and Uncertainty

Diplomats and other experts on earthquakes have said that some aspects of the aid effort clearly have been carried out competently, and that a certain amount of discontent and uncertainty is inevitable.

But the resignation a few days ago of the governor and mayor of Melipilla, another town that was devastated by the temblor, suggested that all is not well.

The Democratic Alliance, the opposition coalition, stated that national unity is necessary to rebuild the country, but that it is impossible in the climate maintained by the government. "There is so much mistrust that much of foreign and domestic aid is not channeled through the government, but rather through the Church and private organizations," stated former Christian Democratic Senator and Minister Juan Hamilton. "Today the schism is so severe that it affects the entire society, and the earthquake is just one more manifestation of that rift," he added.

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CHILE

IMF AGREEMENT REQUIRES LOWERED PUBLIC SPENDING

Santiago TERCERA DE LA HORA in Spanish 24 Mar 85 p 9

[Text] The fiscal policy the government will have to pursue to comply with the economic program it agreed to with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) entails cutting public spending by 12.7 billion pesos and expanding revenues by at least 8.2 billion pesos.

According to the report on this matter submitted by the Central Bank, "the reduction of the public sector deficit is aimed at preventing the competition with the private sector for domestic savings (money) from exerting pressure on interest rates, and thus aggravating the indebtedness of private businesses."

The cut in public spending will take the form of a 6.6-billion-peso reduction in the government's current spending, basically by chopping 5 percent off the budget for all the ministries and services and delaying non-priority investments in housing and public works, particularly line 3 of the Metro. These investments have a total value of 6.1 billion pesos.

In turn, the program that economic officials agreed upon with the IMF calls for public enterprises to carry out an "adjustment of their operational spending, which will yield 4.2 billion pesos more in profits that will be passed on to the Treasury. In addition to the increased earnings, an additional 4 billion pesos in taxes will be collected, and disbursements of loans obtained from the Inter-American Development Bank and the World Bank will be reallocated and accelerated.

The document claims that the government's total spending will remain constant in comparison with the 1984 total, despite the reduction in current spending and "a change in composition that will increase investment."

Controlled Interest

With regard to changes in the currency and interest rates, the pact with the IMF states that this year's monetary policy calls for "a significant increase" of 15.6 percent in the money supply; 15.8 percent in currency issuance; 26.1 percent in private money; and 14 percent in financial savings. All this, admits the report, must take place even though the various aspects of the money supply "were at abnormally depressed levels at the end of last year."

For this reason, "monetary policy will not exert upward pressures on interest rates, which would make them considerably higher than international rates." The report does note, however, that the above "depends on how inflationary expectations evolve."

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CHILE

LAW OF SEA RATIFICATION BILL READY FOR SUBMISSION TO JUNTA

Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 25 Mar 85 p C-3

[Text] The Foreign Ministry soon will submit to President Augusto Pinochet the bill on ratifying the Law of the Sea Convention. Afterwards, the chief of state will send the corresponding message to the Government Junta.

The bills consists of a technical report and a section defending that international agreement.

The convention was signed in 1982 in Jamaica by 160 countries, and so far just 18 have ratified it. The agreement must be ratified by a minimum of 60 countries to take effect. Negotiations for this purpose began in 1974 in Caracas.

If Chile should ratify the agreement, it would have to make a number of modifications in the Civil Code, since the 3-mile territorial sea would increase to 12 miles.

The Law of the Sea Convention also recognizes a legal continental shelf.

In this case, according to the provisions of the convention, Easter Island could extend its continental shelf to 350 miles, since it is located on top of ocean ridges.

Nuclear Free Zone

It was also reported that Chile is participating in various meetings with the nations of the South Pacific to declare that area a "nuclear free zone."

The position was adopted after France conducted numerous atomic tests in the atoll of Muroroa. French Polynesia, obviously, is the only entity not supporting this decision.

Although the effects of these tests have not been fully proven, it is assumed that they are a factor in pollution.

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CHILE

BRIEFS

1984 FISHING SECTOR GROWTH--The fishing sector grew faster than any other sector in the Chilean economy in 1984, rising 12.6 percent above the 1983 level. The economy as a whole grew at a rate of 5.9 percent during the same period. Total fishing production attained the record figure of 4,604,000 tons in 1984, placing Chile among the top four producers in the world, according to a recently released report. The sector exported \$441,782,000 worth of products in 1984, dipping 0.8 percent below the 1983 total, primarily due to the decline in international prices for fishmeal. [Text] [Santiago TERCERA DE LA HORA in Spanish 24 Mar 85 p 9] 8926

LEADERS DISCUSS WAR POSSIBILITY--Rio de Janeiro, 19 March--Latin American political leaders fear that Gen Augusto Pinochet's regime will lead Chile into a civil war, states FOLHA DE SAO PAULO today. According to the daily, this matter was discussed at the request of Argentine President Raul Alfonsin, who left the international airport at Brasilia yesterday en route to Washington. Julio Maria Sanguinetti, president of Uruguay; Ulysses Guimaraes, president of the Brazilian Chamber of Deputies; Carlos Andres Perez, former president of Venezuela; Guillermo Ungo, leader of the revolutionary movement of El Salvador; and Gabriel Valdes of the Chilean Christian Democratic movement, attended the meeting. During the gathering, which took place last Saturday at the Argentine embassy in Brasilia, all expressed their great concern about the document issued by the Chilean Communist Party last January in which it proclaimed the need for an armed struggle, adds FOLHA. Alfonsin said at the meeting that he recently warned two Chilean ministers who visited his country that Pinochet's refusal to accept a negotiated political solution could provoke a civil war in Chile. The Latin American leaders indicated, according to the newspaper, that the repercussions of a conflict of this nature between the Chilean armed forces and Marxist-Leninist guerrillas would be devastating to several South American countries. [Text] [Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 20 Mar 85 p B-5] 8926

MAGALLANES COAL PROJECT--Punta Arenas--The intendant of Magallanes, Maj Gen Luis Danus Covian, stressed the importance to the southern region of the development of the Pecket coal project, now that the Chilean Coal Company (COCAR) has been awarded the contract to supply 80 percent of the coal for the Chilean Copper Corporation (CODELCO). "This is really a positive development, because it means the installation of an industry that will benefit the region on the basis of the comparative advantages and the wealth that can be found in Magallanes, as no other kind of artificial development can," the regional official stated to EL MERCURIO. He added that the coal from Pecket is competitive

because the mine there is an open pit mine that is very easy to work. He said that it will provide jobs for around 500 people during the production phase, which will begin in 1987, and a similar number during the construction phase, this year and in 1986. The project also calls for the construction of a port infrastructure in the Otway inlet for 60,000-ton vessels, which will bring down the freight costs of transporting goods to the north. The engineering work for the construction is completed, and work will begin next July. [Text] [Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 24 Mar 85 p C-9] 8926

WOOL EXPORTED TO PRC---Punta Arenas---The first shipment of wool from Magallanes to the People's Republic of China is being loaded at the local port terminal. It constitutes the most important foreign sale of this traditional product of the south in many years. The shipment comprises 4,200 bales, a total of 1,100 tons, valued at nearly \$2 million. The product is being transported from Punta Arenas to Shanghai by the "Kota Ratna," a merchant vessel registered in Singapore. It has been moored at the Arturo Prat pier since last Friday, and loading should be completed by next Monday. The first wool shipment from Magallanes to the People's Republic of China was arranged by the Dutch firm Hart, which operates on the world wool market. The representative of that firm in Magallanes, Klaus Fittschen, stressed the importance of this export shipment, given that China has become a major purchaser of wool and has a potential market of 1 billion inhabitants. He noted that the sale's value is estimated at \$1.9 million. He also commented that this first shipment constitutes a sample for the Chinese buyers: "We will see if they like the wool, and if so, they will certainly continue buying," he indicated. [Text] [Santiago TERCERA DE LA HORA in Spanish 24 Mar 85 p 15] 8926

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COLOMBIA

LEHDER PARTY SUCCESS IN QUINDIO SAID WARNING TO NATION

Bogota CROMOS in Spanish 11 Mar 85 pp 14-19

[Article by Pedro Claver Tellez: "Quindio: The Devil's Workshop"]

[Text] In the Department of Quindio, everything has fallen apart, even the morale of the good citizens. The compilation of a series of data, the results of a survey of politicians, merchants, intellectuals and average people, yields an inventory of disasters bordering on total chaos.

Although it is the smallest department in Colombia (1,845 square kilometers), it is one of the most densely populated and the one with the most unemployment. It has no solid industrial base to generate large numbers of jobs and, according to DANE [National Administrative Department of Statistics] figures not entirely reliable, it has only 58 establishments that produce foods and beverages and that employ fewer than 1,000 workers. For example, livestock raising has declined substantially, due to the fact that cattle breeders, constantly threatened by terrorists and crime, either have abandoned the region or have neglected their ranches. Coffee, the basic product of its economy, suffered its greatest collapse in 1984. Production, which in 1983 was 24 million kilograms, dropped to 11 million in 1984, by 54 percent. This phenomenon helped increase the number of unemployed and led small growers to ruin. Trading has witnessed a 35-percent drop in sales and in only 6 months, since the last harvest, the bottom has fallen out.

To the great misfortune of Quindio residents, not even bureaucratic feather-bedding or budget padding, which is insignificant, meets the demand for jobs and falls far short of the traditional shares coming to political leaders. Naturally, no one believes that this is the solution in the long run. According to politicians on both sides, the government has totally forgotten the department and any project that might help reduce unemployment, even temporarily, has not been completed in years. Indifference and administrative disorganization prevail. Moral values have vanished, along with sound political practices. The situation is naturally a hotbed for any kind of political and social upheavals, such as the emergence of the National Latin Movement, headed by narcotics trafficker Carlos Lehder Rivas, whose extradition has already been ordered.

Dirty Money

The National Latin Movement, now known as the Socialist Latin Movement, which in past elections won 12,000 votes and had two deputies and eight city council members elected, threatens the stability of traditional parties, not only because it intends to gain 20,000 votes in the coming elections (everyone, even its rivals, believes this), but because it has done serious harm to public morale. Taking advantage of fabulous sums of money, Lehder's followers who head the movement have bought votes, a practice that until only recently was the exclusive province of coastal bosses of all parties. They do so knowing full well that they can exploit a very sensitive vein: the hunger and unemployment of the people, most of whom belong to the lower classes. With one exception: The leaders come from the upper middle class and are the children of important conservative and liberal families, professionals in law, economics and engineering, perhaps frustrated by their environment.

The Latin Movement has extended its tentacles to the 12 municipalities in the department with an organization and economic apparatus that holds all groups, divided into conservatives and liberals, in check. Using shrewd local leaders it pays -- all lured away from traditional parties -- solidly financed and with lucrative patronage and sinecures, it intends to gain enough votes to have a senator and at least one representative in the coming elections. In December, it spent nearly 10 million pesos on presents for the children of its card-carrying members and every week, at the so-called "patriotic Saturdays," it passes out 500-pesos bills to those present, in addition to the markets to which zonal and district leaders have the right to go every week.

And yet, not everything is coming up roses in its ranks. Since its founding, the movement, on Lehder's orders, has carried out a series of purges of the main leaders. Because of the rivalry between Javier Ocampo Upegui and Gustavo Adolfo Ramirez, both principal deputies, the movement fell into a crisis. Installed in the Assembly, Ocampo and Ramirez continued to head the movement. However, shortly after the attempted assassination that nearly cost Ramirez Quintero his life, Ocampo Upegui was kicked out of the ranks and replaced in the Assembly by his alternate, former professor at the University of Quindio, Humberto Toro. Now retired, Ocampo Upegui lives in Bogota and has a ranch in Llanos Orientales. His fortune, after 2 years, is said to amount to 100 million pesos.

With Javier Ocampo Upegui ousted, Ramirez Quintero took the reins of the movement until only recently, when he was removed by a general assembly electing zonal leaders for Armenia as well as each of the 12 municipalities in Quindio. The visible leaders are now painter and sociologist Luis Fernando Patino, considered to be the most solid "ideologist" in the organization; Francisco Humberto Toro, currently deputy, who recently traveled to France to continue the study of sociology and political science at the University of Paris; and attorneys Dario Lopera and Hernan Valencia Echeverry. The latter is a criminal lawyer who asked for Lehder's extradition before the Supreme Court of Justice. He would be the Senate head for the movement. Valencia Echeverry, from Calarca, was legal adviser for the government of Quindio, mayor of Calarca and member of the liberal group that for years has been headed by Senator Ancizar Lopez, now president of the Central Political Commission of the Liberal Party,

Scheming in the Assembly

Despite the shouts of protest from leaders of the traditional parties, no one can give any valid reason to excuse the blunder committed in the Departmental Assembly at the end of last year. With only two deputies, the National Latin Movement managed to have the assembly pass a proposal against the Extradition Treaty.

How did it do it? Most of those questioned by CROMOS wax indignant over the events of that night in November last year, when Deputy Gustavo Adolfo Ramirez Quintero, from the National Latin Movement, rose in the middle of a discussion of the budget and read a proposal arguing that the Extradition Treaty was illegal by virtue of the laws and international law. In the galleries, packed with National Latinists, applause and shouts of approval supported Ramirez Quintero, while outside, in the Plaza de Bolivar, a demonstration of at least 10,000 persons witnessed the approval.

Inexplicably, once placed before the deputies, the proposal was passed by 10 out of the 13 voters. The following is the list of deputies voting for it: Humberto Cuartas Giraldo (Liberal, group of Ancizar Lopez); Henry Gonzalez Mesa (Galanista Liberal); Jaime Londono Patino (Conservative); Heberth Orjuela Moncada (Conservative); Gustavo Adolfo Ramirez (from the National Latin Movement); Francisco Humberto Toro (from the National Latin Movement); Milciades Segura Ricardo (Liberal, from the Ancizar Lopez group); Alexander Vasquez Fernandez (Conservative); and Jaime Tamayo Tamayo (Conservative).

Montenegro

But it is perhaps in a small municipality such as Montenegro where one can better appreciate the deals being made by Lehder's followers with the city council members of traditional parties.

Montenegro is an eminently Liberal municipality, now manipulated by the National Latin Movement. Out of the 12 council members, 8 are now Liberals. There is only 1 Conservative, a woman, Edilma de Bedoya. The other 3 belong to the National Latin Movement, but they were once part of the Liberal ranks.

The victorious group in the general elections was the so-called Liberal Left, headed by alternate Senator Alberto Marin Cardona, "El Grillo." The latter obtained 4 council members but is now acting with only 3 due to the disappearance of one, who went over to the ranks of the Liberal-Lehderist coalition.

The council members from the National Latin Movement are: Esteban Ibarra, Rogelio Gutierrez and Hernando Ocampo. The latter, well-known in political circles, for 18 years accompanied Senator Ancizar Lopez and in the elections before last (1982) former Governor Lucelly Garcia de Montoya. These three, ready to defeat the group of Alberto Marin Cardona, Montenegro's eternal boss, allied themselves with Gerardo Gomez Garcia (group of Lucelly Garcia de Montoya), Arcesio Quiceno (Ancizar Lopez group), Liberal Left dissident Jaime Ramirez Cuervo and Galanist Jorge Alberto Pava.

Having formed the coalition, they had half plus one of the votes in the council, which gave them enough power to block the Liberal Left, now with 3 votes, and the Conservatives, with only 1. Using that strength, they attacked Mayor Jose Fernando Ramirez, protected by Alberto Marin Cardona.

Ramirez Cortes delayed approval of the municipal budget, holding it back after it was approved by the Council, for which reason he was brought before the Regional District Attorney's Office, which fined him 34,400 pesos, a month's salary. The supporters of the mayor obtained the sum in question by asking for public contributions and they paid the fine.

Mayor's Supporters

This act provoked the rage of the Liberal-Lehderist coalition, which then threatened a civic strike if the mayor did not resign. But the latter, with the consent of the governor, continued his action. The coalition council members then began an investigation and brought out a series of faults in his administration.

The most serious of them is the delay in the payment of 7 million a year for energy to the Caldas Hydroelectric Corporation (CHEC), which resulted in extremely high interests, to the point that the municipality is in debt to the Corporation to the tune of 20 million pesos, a scandalous sum for a municipality such as Montenegro.

The coalition also condemned a series of irregularities committed by Mario Ladi Ladino, who for a year and a half engaged in dealings at the expense of the municipality. To give but one example, that gentlemen bought cement in Manizales with his money and after it was hauled in the official truck, sold it to the municipality.

Consequently, in recent days, due to pressures and the threat of an imminent civic strike, Mayor Ramirez Cortes "requested a vacation," which was immediately granted and he left the town in the middle of a kind of demonstration, with people shouting "Don't come back!" Ramirez Cortes was immediately replaced by Silvio Galvis.

In spite of all this, in this region once so violent, there is relative calm. After the assassination of Liberal representative Marconi Sanchez Valencia, in downtown Montenegro a year ago, there has only been one notorious crime in its jurisdiction. It occurred on precisely 2 March, a day when the CROMOS reporters were visiting the municipality. The victim, Alfonso Uribe Perez, 46, was traveling on a motorcycle between Quimbaya and Montenegro and at a spot known as El Guayabo, he came to a halt. While he was fixing the cycle to one side of the road, he was murdered by two unknown persons who then fled. It was apparently an act of revenge.

Importance of Being Lehder

Liberalism has always had a majority in the elections, but there, as in other departments, the Liberals have always been divided into many groups. Despite

this fact, for 19 years, since the creation of the department, the Liberals have had two of the three senators corresponding to that election district. In the latest elections for the Senate and the Chamber (1982), Ancizar Lopez and Samuel Grisales were elected for the Liberals and Silvio Ceballos for the Conservatives. Now both Liberals and Conservatives are aware that if they do not unite and go divided into the 1986 elections, the National Latin Movement will take a seat away from them in the Senate. Who would be the loser? All agree that it would be the Liberal Party because the Conservatives have already agreed to unite in a single list.

Nevertheless, the split continues in the Liberal ranks. On the one side is the Liberal Left, headed by Samuel Grisales, and on the other, Ancizar Lopez, who follows official orientations. In recent months, a strong group, the Liberal Integration Movement has emerged, with three former governors in its ranks: Jesus Antonio Nino Diaz, who will head the list for the Senate; Lucelly Garcia de Montoya, heading the list for the Chamber; and Mario Gomez Ramirez, the second option for the Chamber of head of the list for the Assembly.

Deceiving the People

What do the politicians think of all this? CROMOS conducted a quick survey of some of them. We initially questioned Jesus Antonio Nino Diaz, twice governor of Quindio, now head of the Liberal Integration Movement.

[Question] To what do you attribute the appearance or emergence of a group such as the National Latin Movement, headed by Carlos Lehder, now a fugitive from justice?

[Answer] The Lehder phenomenon, if one can call it that, is partially the product of the unemployment and hunger suffered by the people of Quindio. In addition, it is the most pathetic symbol of the appearance of money from narcotics trafficking in politics. They have millions and millions to spend. They have won over people, especially the unwary, with gifts and raffles. At the meetings held each week, which they called the "patriotic Saturdays," they raffle off sewing machines, television sets and other things, in addition to distributing goods and hundreds of 500-peso notes to those attending. The people are attracted by these things, especially the lower classes, the "real people," the hungry and unemployed.

[Question] Is it not then an ideological movement, as the visible leaders of that organization claim?

[Answer] In no way. It is not an ideological movement. As I was saying, these are unwary people attracted by money, raffles and goods. Nothing more. Something very serious occurred here a year ago and this is the response to that phenomenon. You know that Quindio is essentially a coffee-growing department and that the coffee harvest mainly depends on the temporary employment of thousands of persons. Since the last harvest was a failure, 50 percent was lost and thousands of persons were left hanging, even the little growers. This partly explains the emergence of a movement such as the one headed by Carlos Lehder.

[Question] And is there no way to counter it, to halt it? For example, through a great civic crusade in which all the forces of the department are involved?

[Answer] It is difficult to counter it and for several reasons. First of all, because there is no monolithic unity, an awareness on the part of the live forces in the department. Here, everyone goes his own way. Furthermore, one cannot compete with their money, with the millions sent for the political organization, not even by combining that of the different political groups. In other words, we are all guilty. We were tolerant on all levels, even from the public administration. We, the leaders of the Liberal Integration Movement, are going to convince the people that they will get nowhere that way, that it is a movement without a future. I do not know what the leaders of other liberal and conservative groups think.

Night of the Daggers

Lucelly Garcia de Montoya, former governor of the department and currently deputy in the Quindio Assembly, who heads a strong liberal group which in past elections won 12,000 votes, said that the National Latin Movement is a worrisome phenomenon and attributed its regained strength to hunger and unemployment.

[Question] How do you explain that the Assembly to which you belong approved a proposal against the Extradition Treaty?

[Answer] I was not present in the Assembly that night, first of all. Second, I would like to say that while it was tactless on the part of the benches of both parties, it was also the result of the pressure tactics used by the deputies of the Latin Movement and their supporters in order to interrupt the normal work of the departmental Assembly. They do not work or let anyone else work either. They fill the galleries with noisy people in order to block all action. The approval of that proposal was the fruit of pressure from the galleries, backed by a great demonstration in the public square. But the most serious thing, naturally, is that it was approved by a coalition with the participation of five Conservatives, one Galanist, two from the group of Senator Ancizar Lopez and two from the Latin Movement.

[Question] What explanation can you give for the coalition in Montenegro in which, in addition to the three Lehderists, there is a Galanist, one from the group of Ancizar Lopez and one of yours?

[Answer] They are new people with little political and administrative experience. I was a Radical, like Senator Silvio Ceballos, in censuring that attitude of my councilman. It bothered me a great deal to see my councilman involved in those dealings. I tried to convince him, change his mind, make him see the drawbacks of that type of union and the problems and difficulties it would bring our movement. But when they have their credentials in their pocket, they can act independently. I can tell you one thing: Lehder's councilmen in Montenegro are good Liberals, without vices, honest. Hernando Ocampo, for example, is a marvelous man who cannot be called a drug trafficker. Perhaps he

took that step to play a role, out of a desire to do something for his people. Similar things have happened in other municipalities.

[Question] Does Lehder's movement have a future in Quindio? What are you planning to stop it?

[Answer] No, it has no future because it is not a solid ideological movement. It is an ephemeral movement containing people from all groups, desperate because of hunger and unemployment. In the long run, when their money runs out -- and it has to run out -- they will leave it just as they have left other movements with better intentions in different parts of the country. I do not believe it has any future and what is more, I believe that its votes will drop off notably in the next elections. We are going to do our utmost to stop it. This we leaders of the Liberal Integration Movement shall do and we are certain of stopping them. Time will tell.

Senator Ancizar Lopez, president of the Central Political Commission of the Liberals, claimed that the entire situation in Quindio is the result of money from narcotics trafficking, then added:

"Not only of the money from narcotics trafficking. The truth is that Carlos Lehder became a figure as a result of the last campaign because the media took it upon themselves to canonize him. Three years ago, no one knew him and now he is a figure despite the damage he has done and despite his contradictions. No citizen had as much press as Lehder did in the last campaign. It is alarming what is happening with the press, especially official television, from which he frequently makes an argument for crime with as much space as given to guerrillas and the narcotics traffickers. That is for starters. Second, it would appear that the campaign against narcotics trafficking is a failure, an entelechy. Every day, they discover laboratories and seize thousands of kilograms of cocaine, but they never get the big guys. And while that is happening, we are flooded with money from narcotics trafficking, like here in Quindio.

[Question] Then what would be the right way to end the situation existing in the Department of Quindio?

[Answer] The only possibility I see would be to promote jobs. The people think more rationally when they have security and their security, both moral as well as economic, depends on jobs, work. But there is no industry here and the government is not concerned about embarking upon a project that would at least offer work, however temporary. We have been totally forgotten by the Central Government.

Election of Mayors

Finally, we talked with the councilman from Armenia and president of the Conservative Unity Directorate, Alberto Aristizabal Pelaez, who twice served as secretary of the departmental government, mayor of Armenia, acting governor and manager of public enterprises.

[Question] How do you see the future of politics in Quindio with the National Latin Movement?

[Answer] The National Latin Movement is a real unknown factor. One group of the Liberal Party or Conservative Party will disappear. Everyone takes it for a fact that the Lehder movement will elect a senator. It is the only group which, in times such as we are experiencing now, can fill the public square. That phenomenon has an explanation: money. Lehder has as much money for the campaign as all the other groups combined. We will not even be able to compete with it on those grounds. But that is not the most serious thing. What is serious is that if the law passes establishing the election of mayors by popular vote, the people will come out of the walls. Another serious thing is that if the National Latin Movement wins the greatest number of votes for senator, it will then have the right to the mayoralty of Armenia or the government of Quindio. The picture is gloomy wherever you look. That is why we conservatives will stand united.

11,464

CSO: 5300/2202

EL SALVADOR

AFP INTERVIEWS ERP LEADER VILLALOBOS

HK150526 Hong Kong AFP in English 0517 GMT 15 Apr 85

[By Jean-Perra Bousquet]

[Text] Perquin, El Salvador, 15 April (AFP)--An early cease-fire between guerrillas and government forces in El Salvador is unlikely because the civil war is "virtually a confrontation with the policies of U.S. President Ronald Reagan's administration," insurgent leader Joaquim Villalobos said in a week-end interview here.

"Without U.S. aid to the government and the army, we would have been on top long ago," said the 33-year-old leader of the People's Liberation Army (ERP), one of the main components in the leftist guerrilla alliance.

Major Villalobos, smiling at U.S. Embassy reports of his death in combat last week, spoke with an AFP correspondent in this northeastern village after refusing to talk to the media for more than 3 years.

The deeply-tanned, boyish-looking major, somewhat taller than the average Salvadoran, said the national conflict should be solved within a national framework, "and that implies first a solution to the problem of U.S. intervention."

The Salvadoran Army is "a problem which has been solved militarily," he said, and the next step was "to attack its support base, that is the North American support."

"To do otherwise would be to fight the war in just the way they want us to fight it," he said.

In practice, he said, the guerrillas aimed to increase their destabilization and sabotage activities--"a war of attrition rather than a series of spectacular operations, but this should not be seen as a weakening of our capabilities."

"We must not allow the consolidation of any political-economic project without our participation--that is, in an overall framework which takes into account the interests of the people," he said.

Otherwise, the war could go on for "1, 2, 3, 4, 5 years."

The ERP commander said he did not appreciate being called a Marxist--not that he was afraid of the label but because he considered it imprecise and thought it was used "as a maneuver to classify us in an East-West context and justify American aid to the Salvadoran Government."

Major Villalobos said he preferred his own definition of himself and his comrades: "Salvadoran revolutionaries."

Major Villalobos spoke of "ideological pluralism" in the ranks of the guerrillas, who included "many Christians, even priests, people professing Christian political ideas, democrats, revolutionaries sympathizing with Marxism, and Marxists who also call themselves Christians."

He said Salvadoran guerrillas were typical of "the Latin American political avant-gard."

"The current administration in the United States--and those which will follow it--would do well to realize that this line of thinking is the one they will have to face up to in El Salvador and on the rest of the continent," he said.

The guerrilla fighter added, however, that he expected continued negotiations with the government of Christian Democratic President Jose Napoleon Duarte.

Immediate, concrete results were unlikely, except perhaps in "humanizing the war, prisoner questions, the bombing of civilians, the kidnapping of trade union leaders."

The rest would take "lots of time, the meeting of ideas, and a will to reach an agreement."

CSO: 3200/32

GRENADA

MINISTER SAYS PRG 'WASTED' MONEY ON COOPERATIVES

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 25 Mar 85 p 5

[Text]

ST. GEORGE'S, Sun., (Cana)—

GRENADA'S ousted People's Revolutionary Government (PRG) squandered money on co-operatives, some of which it set up without considering their relevance to the country, according to Labour Minister Dr. Francis Alexis.

bakeries put up which up to today have never baked one single loaf of bread and which would never bake a loaf of bread because the engineering had no relevance to Grenadian reality," Dr. Alexis commented.

The Minister referred to NADCA'S liquidation report which was prepared in the aftermath of the PRG downfall in a 1983 coup.

Dr Alexis said that from the report it appears traditional co-operatives in Grenada were finding it difficult to obtain the kind of support which the NADCA-established co-operatives were getting.

"I am amazed at some of the groups which were getting money from NADCA. I would have thought that NADCA would be concerned with giving money to the small man, but not so, because NADCA gave thousands of dollars to people who, in my view, would never qualify for easy financing because it seems to me that they were in a position to finance themselves," he added.

Dr Alexis said the three-month-old Government is trying to cut down on the financial losses which resulted from these co-operatives in order to start all over again.

In a radio interview, Dr. Alexis, who is also responsible for co-operatives, said the PRG committed itself to setting up a number of co-operatives annually and did not always take into consideration their relevance to the needs of Grenada.

Under the PRG, a State-controlled National Co-operatives Development Agency (NADCA) was established with the responsibility of setting up co-operatives with the aim of reducing unemployment, especially among youths.

Dr Alexis said the new Grenada Government discovered that a lot of money was wasted by the PRG — which ran the island from March 1979 to October 1983 — in forming many co-operatives which never functioned. No figures were given.

He said that the leftist Government had loaned several people thousands of dollars to set up co-operatives to bake bread but these beneficiaries could not account for the loans.

ALL OVER AGAIN

"I don't understand what was being done in the country — a multiplicity of

CSO: 3298/532

GUATEMALA

PSD LEADER ON PARTY'S HISTORY, CURRENT STATUS

Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 17 Mar 85 Sunday supplement pp 8-10

[Interview with the secretary general of the Democratic Socialist Party (PSD), Dr Mario Solorzano Martinez; date and place not given]

[Text] This country is changing, especially its politics, and to a great extent the change is due to the move towards democracy. Until recently, you could "think" in public only in a certain way. Then came the two latest coups d'etat, and overnight most Guatemalans decided that there should be no restrictions on thought or ideology. There is talk of democracy, and a Socialist Party has already requested registration.

We asked for an interview on this issue with the secretary general of the Democratic Socialist Party, Dr Mario Solorzano Martinez, a 40-year old attorney and notary who graduated from San Carlos and studied political science at Mexico's National Autonomous University. In recent years he has devoted himself as a university professor to teaching and research. He has co-authored several books, and one of his recent essays, entitled "Guatemala: Between Authoritarianism and Democracy," was published in Costa Rica.

[Question] After 6 years in exile, what was your first reaction on returning to your homeland?

[Answer] I was happy to be back. Six years is a long time. The renewed contact with my cultural roots and my fellow countrymen has been moving. What impresses me most, however, is to find strong support for the political program in which we are engaged. The patent solidarity, the enthusiasm among party ranks and the enthusiasm among friends in sister parties overseas have made me very optimistic. It is truly encouraging to receive such support in these times of far-reaching importance for our organization.

[Question] At times you and your people have spoken of a new concept of politics. What do you mean?

[Answer] In speaking of a new concept of politics, we are referring to three situations in particular: our ideology as a party, our way of interpreting reality, and, most importantly, the practice of politics itself. Since it was born, the PSD has clearly described itself as a party that represents white- and blue-collar workers. In other words, we fight to recover and defend the interests of this social group. This stand enables us to identify precisely in what direction we ought to channel our efforts and our proposals. Democratic socialism must also be seen as a search for equal freedoms for all people in every sphere of life through solidarity and organization.

An accurate analysis of reality is fundamental to engaging in practical politics and to an understanding of given situations. In Guatemala, leftwing parties have been dominated by subjectivism, and rightwing parties by pragmatism. Over the past 30 years political parties have been guided more by strong personalities and subservience than by the facts themselves. This situation has to be put behind us so that we can move forward along the path of social change.

As far as political practice is concerned, the PSD has clearly and unhesitatingly chosen the democratic path, that is to say, a peaceful and gradual path based on the consensus of the majority. The only way to achieve our basic goals of freedom, equality, solidarity and social justice is along the democratic path.

Traditional politics have been marked by a high degree of opportunism, corruption and violence. In the face of this, we are raising the banner of a different concept of politics; what it boils down to is that all ideologies must be able to express themselves, and social groups and parties must be able to resolve their differences peacefully, honorably and earnestly.

[Question] What different ideological choices do you see in the world today?

[Answer] I would say that the range is from the traditional position of the conservative Right, so-called centrism, the Christian Democratic faction, democratic socialism to communism.

[Question] The terms socialism and communism have traditionally been confused in Guatemala. What are the differences between the two?

[Answer] The answer to this question is threefold: historic, the concept of the State and the manner of coming to power, and the approach to the economy.

The historic difference took shape during the Third International, when the Soviet State turned the Communist parties in other countries into components of its own foreign policy. The parties that rejected Soviet authoritarianism and maintained their democratic principles broke away; this was the case with the West German Social Democratic Party, the Spanish Socialist Workers Party, the French Socialist Party and, well, most of the Socialist parties in Western Europe. Later, after the Second World War, in 1959 the current Socialist International was formed, and its basic principles are freedom, justice and solidarity, which it tries to achieve through democracy.

As for the concept of the State, the basic difference is that we democratic socialists do not believe in the dictatorship of the proletariat, much less in the existence of a single party. Our strong principles are pluralism, the consensus of the majority and unfettered competition at the polls. This has to do with the difference in the way of coming to power. We seek to take office through the support of the majority, which includes all segments of society.

As far as our approach to the economy is concerned, we feel that we must guarantee involvement for all in production and, especially, in the distribution and enjoyment of the benefits of economic development. Democratic socialism does not wish to destroy private enterprise. It describes private enterprise as a manifestation of the freedom and initiative of individuals within the economy. Nevertheless, we see property in its social function; that is to say, the collective interest must take precedence over the interest of individuals. In contrast, communism advocates the total nationalization of the economy.

[Question] So what differentiates you from free-market economists?

[Answer] Democratic socialism does not embrace the concept of a free market, inasmuch as the goal of our economic policy is to give the national economy a planned organization that will lead to the highest possible productivity and assure higher living standards, prosperity and well-being for the entire population. Therefore, we feel that the State must coordinate and guide the economy and stimulate and support private enterprise and social organization for production, all this for the benefit of the society at large. We thus contend that there must be three sectors of the economy: the state-run economy, the private economy and the labor economy. The first two already exist in our country, and we must create the third to spur the country's development and economic democracy.

[Question] Is there any difference between social democracy and democratic socialism?

[Answer] There is really no difference. Yet, social democracy has more of a European tinge. Democratic socialism, in our judgment, is more applicable to conditions in Latin America.

[Question] You talk about a new sort of party. Why?

[Answer] We reject the traditional politics, which ignored national realities. We feel that a political party must, above all, be scientific in its analysis, interpret the interests of the social group that it represents and see to it that those interests are respected and met. In this sense, to us it is not enough to run for office just for the sake of doing so. We are concerned, above all, with being a real alternative for change, about building a unified society in which everyone, without distinctions of any sort, has the opportunity to enjoy the country's material and spiritual benefits.

To achieve this goal, we contend that a full-fledged democracy is indispensable, a democracy under which government power will be decentralized and handed over to local, regional or functional bodies. Participation as a principle and as a method of organizing a strengthened democracy will entail the blurring, if not the disappearance of the dividing line between civilian and political society, between the rulers and the ruled, between the individual and the citizen, as each person will be called on to take up his share of the responsibility for running society. This approach, which is realistic, not demagogic, will enable us to permanently and consciously safeguard the democratic structures of government and to partake responsibly in decision-making based on the country's existing resources and on the goals that have been set as priorities.

Full-fledged democracy is our alternative to the dictatorship of the proletariat and to the pro-forma democracy of capitalism. The PSD proclaims itself as essentially humanist, inasmuch as it regards man as the focus of all social and political efforts and argues that man must be as free as possible from want, anguish and economic servitude. We acknowledge man's right to be completely free: with the objective freedom to take part in all of society's organizations and with the subjective freedom to develop his personality and his ability to choose his own destiny as an individual.

We are different from all of the other parties that have existed in Guatemala up to now. Our history demonstrates this. Our clear-cut ideology differentiates us from the Marxist-Leninists and from the Right, whether the traditional or the modern version. We have resisted corruption and violence, both when we were a legal party and during the 6 years that we were engaged in an active political resistance. We represent a new political generation that is sick and tired of violence and that seeks to offer an objective and realistic answer. Our answer to the economic and political crisis heeds the interests of all Guatemalans and seeks to develop democracy on a solid, long-lasting foundation.

[Question] Why was the PSD founded?

[Answer] The roots of the PSD lie in the spiritual socialist philosophy of Juan Jose Arevalo, the proposals of this country's most brilliant social democrats, men like Adolfo Mijangos Lopez, Alberto Fuentes Mohr and others.

We drew strength from the philosophy of great Latin American figures such as Victor Raul Haya de la Torre and Romulo Betancourt, from major events and transformations like the October revolution in Guatemala, the Mexican revolution and the university reform of Cordova, as well as from European social democratic political thought.

The PSD has gone through several stages. The first began with Alberto Fuentes Mohr's struggle in the 1970's, when he tried to impart a social democratic direction to the Revolutionary Party. During this stage we took part in elections and were part of the National Opposition Front in 1974 and the National Unity Front in 1978. We won the elections at the ballot box but lost in the vote count. The people who counted the votes, not the people who cast their ballots won the elections.

The second stage was from 1978 to 1985, when owing to the persecution and murder of our main leaders, the party decided to engage in active political resistance. We quietly reorganized. We made our presence felt among the low-income segments of society, we denounced human rights violations and we strove to organize the country's most defenseless social groups, the middle class and other groups. This decision enabled us to survive and to keep our principles intact. It was very important to us; it created a mystique and a team spirit in the party.

We began the third stage with the Third National Congress, where we made the decision to return to public life. I would just like to point out two facts that I consider important: 1) Our application to register as a political party. Our filing shows, on the one hand, the degree of organization that we had achieved and, on the other, our determination to make a serious effort from the opposition to find a democratic solution for Guatemala; 2) Our political maturity, as reflected in our flexible approach to the situation. The PSD is not just another political party; it is a school of thought and an organization with an agenda for society different from the one we have lived with. We thus feel that we must move forward on objective foundations, slowly but surely. And all those who share these concerns must cooperate in this effort.

Only if we think about society as a whole rather than about individual interests, whether of political groups or persons, will we be able to save the country and start down a different path.

[Question] When the PSD speaks of an alternative agenda for society, is it referring to changes in the economy, in politics or in philosophy?

[Answer] All three. The country needs changes that will enable us right now to spur the development of capitalism on a new foundation.

[Question] What are the answers to current problems?

[Answer] In our opinion, the current development model has failed. Therefore, we have to promote a new model that takes the mistakes of the past into account and that, at the same time, takes advantage of the gains we have made. The country's farm export sector remains the hub of our economy; therefore, not only should we support it but we should try to modernize it more and more. Nevertheless, we cannot remain simply a farm export country. Modern farming methods have created large contingents of agricultural workers; the tenant farmer system is disappearing on estates, and today we are seeing a major migration from the countryside to the city. Large masses of peasant farmers have been demanding land, and we must meet this demand in order to produce more and improve living conditions for them. This does not mean destroying productive large estates. That would be a serious mistake and cause a major crisis. Therefore, we must focus on unproductive lands, on more modern agricultural methods and on specific government policies to help small and medium-sized growers and to maintain the production cycle. In addition, we must try to open new markets for our commodities.

The problem has to do with distribution, not just production. The current model is spent and has brought us to the crisis now plaguing us. Everyone in Guatemala accepts this, from the MLN to us. Yet the current candidates and the political forces backing them are not offering any changes. They are all calling for higher production and a modernization of the economy. Some even argue that the problem is production, not distribution. This is completely mistaken and dangerous for the country. Produce for who?

[Question] What is your view of violence?

[Answer] The violence that we have experienced has several causes, above all, an exclusionist and polarized economic system that has led to despair among thousands of Guatemalans from various economic groups and to a failure to realize that conditions must be improved in order for the country to move forward in peace and democracy. We have lived under a closed political regime. The idea has been that the silence that terror causes is better than open debate.

[Question] And what about armed violence?

[Answer] We must show that we live in a civilized country. I think that we can resolve all our problems if we sit down around a table and talk about them with sincerity. Dialogue and consensus must be our guides if we want to live in a democracy.

[Question] What is your opinion of this government?

[Answer] I feel that it is well-intentioned and that the major point in its favor is the handing over of power in democratic elections.

[Question] What do you think of the Constitutional Assembly?

[Answer] I think that it has been a step forward towards democracy. However, it has given us a clear picture of the political forces represented there. It has shown the inconsistency of the political forces whose policies are different from traditional ones. The Center and Christian Democracy have wasted an opportunity to show the courage of their convictions and have given ground under pressure from the traditional Right and the country's most backward-thinking economic sectors. This is what has caused the frustration that the people at large are now feeling towards these parties. The problem boils down to their all wanting to be president without offering the country answers.

They all think about taking power and forget the situation we are in and the difficulties they will face in office. We have therefore argued that the elections are a means to an end, not an end in themselves. Guatemala needs answers, not demagogic rhetoric.

[Question] Mario, what do you think about the proliferation of political parties and groups?

[Answer] I think that it reflects the desire of many Guatemalans to get involved. We are not talking about parties in referring to these groups; we are talking about the programs that we see on the political scene. In our opinion, there are just three programs today: a) The program of the traditional Right, headed by the National Liberation Movement, which although it calls for changes in its longstanding platform, still is the major representative of the rightwing political tradition; b) The program of the Center, which in our opinion represents the modern business view of politics in Guatemala but which also tries to represent opposing factions, as can be seen in its actions. Here I would place Guatemala's Christian Democrats, who are trying not to be at odds with the powerful traditional economic sectors and, at the same time, to have a presence in the low-income sector. Yet neither of these two programs offers any economic or social alternatives. Politically, I think that they both realize the need for a formal political democracy; c) And lastly there is our program, which calls for a change in traditional philosophy. We are the political opposition today. We seek to defend white- and blue-collar workers through a broad, flexible approach and to put an end to polarization by consolidating democracy, by implementing economic and social reform and by establishing freedom and social justice. Our efforts are for change.

[Question] Your party is said to be drafting its campaign platform. You are even being mentioned as a candidate for mayor or even for president. Is there any truth to this?

[Answer] At the moment we are trying to reorganize, to strengthen our machine, to present our ideological alternative and to spur democratization from below. The party as a whole decides who its candidates will be. Thus, the organization will have the last word. If you are a democrat and struggle for democracy, then you should begin at home. It so happens that I am the head of my party today, and it stands to reason that this will cause speculation. I can say in all honesty that no decision has yet been made in this regard.

[Question] Yet your party is on the threshold of an election, and I understand that you are getting an advertising campaign ready. What is this leading up to, a candidacy or what?

[Answer] I can see that you will not settle for any old answer. Unlike the other political forces, we do not have funds by the millions. We want to spur democratization in the country. To this end, we are going to wage a grassroots campaign, not a media campaign. We are going to explain what we mean by democratization and what must be done to achieve a system of freedom with social justice. We are, in fact, going to kick off this campaign soon. It will be the Guatemalan people, with their support and their decision to get involved, who will tell us whether we have to shift to a different phase of the political struggle, whether it is realistic to push a campaign platform and to run for public office. When that time comes, we will decide on candidates, whether for president, mayor, deputies or whatever we feel like, in an effort to continue building our party and our program for change in Guatemala.

[Question] Lastly, how is the process of organizing the PSD coming along?

[Answer] One month after our emergence, I think that we have shown the people of Guatemala that we are a serious, honest and youthful alternative. We are a breath of fresh air in a society that has had to put up with irresponsibility, corruption and political manipulation from an old generation that has been unable to come up with answers. History is no accident, and the people of Guatemala will once again demonstrate their political maturity. In this sense, I think that we are going to occupy an important place on the national political scene.

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CSO: 3248/304

GUATEMALA

BARTER FOR SUGAR SOUGHT WITH EASTERN BLOC COUNTRIES

Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 22 Mar 85 p 12

[Text] The government is trying to arrange with iron-curtain countries to trade sugar on a barter basis to prevent the amount of surplus sugar currently in storage from exceeding 5 million quintals. If the amount in storage did rise above that ceiling, the country would suffer serious economic consequences, confirmed Economy Minister Leonel Hernandez Cardona yesterday.

He indicated that early this year the United States, which is Guatemala's best customer, cut the quota assigned to this country by 300,000 quintals. It has also announced possible price cuts, which has prompted a national commission to plan a trip to Washington to renegotiate the quota.

The official told PRENSA LIBRE that this year's sugar harvest will yield a total of 11.6 million quintals, which is distributed among three main markets.

The first market is the domestic one, which is expected to purchase a total of 5.1 million quintals, 44 percent of the harvest. It is followed by the U.S. market, which will purchase 2,438,400 quintals, 21 percent of the total. The third is the world market, which is expected to buy 4,061,600 quintals (35 percent).

As for prices, the best are paid by the U.S. market, where a pound sells for 18 cents. On the domestic market, a pound sells for 20.2 centavos, while a quintal of sugar fetches US \$4.00 on the world market.

Minister Cardona stated that his ministry is responsible only for assigning general quotas, to the aforementioned markets. The quotas for each sugar mill are to be set by the Sugar Producers' Association, pursuant to the legal provisions established by the National Sugar Commission.

Each sugar mill is assigned a production figure that is determined by looking at its production figures for recent years. After the quotas are reached, the law stipulates that by the end of March all sugar mills that have not met their assigned quotas must declare production shortfalls.

All of this is reported as an overall production shortfall, and the remaining sugar is redistributed among the sugar mills that still have processing capacity.

2 Million Quintals in Storage

In addition, Minister Cardona noted that 2 million quintals have not been sold to any of the aforementioned markets. This means that if new purchasers are not found, considering the total harvest that is expected for this season, the surplus could amount to 5 million quintals that cannot be marketed.

"If to all that we add the 300,000 quintals that the United States no longer plans to buy, plus the drop in the price of sugar, the crisis will be indeed serious, and will harm sugar producers as well as our treasury.

"For this reason," stated the minister, "the Economy Ministry is looking for new markets with non-traditional purchasing countries. Thus, we have contacted representatives of the Government of Romania to investigate trading sugar on a barter basis.

"That country would provide us with the raw materials we need to promote production in other areas, and we would give it sugar. Preliminary talks have already taken place between representatives of our private sector and those of the Romanian Government.

"For example, the paper factory in El Racho, El Progreso, is already working on a list of the raw materials that could be exchanged for sugar through the barter system and are produced in Romania.

"Only in this way," he went on, "will the sugar mills be able to get rid of their inventories (stored sugar). We cannot sit on our hands, and we must look for new markets where we can sell our sugar on the best possible terms."

The minister expressed confidence that Guatemala will not be affected by the cut in sugar prices to be implemented by the United States, since it is trying to benefit the countries that fall within the economic development plan known as the "Caribbean Basin" plan.

In another part of his statements, the official explained that his office does not assign quotas to the sugar mills. He recalled that such a practice in the past led to many problems, so now the responsibility lies with the appropriate association.

Processing of Alcohol for Fuel

Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Food Juan Humberto Mancur Donis stated that the lack of a market for sugar will continue to be a problem, given that there are many countries that produce it.

"For this reason," he stressed, "we are promoting programs to manufacture alcohol for fuel, using sugar cane from Guatemala. A variety of activities

are being carried out under these programs, and buyers have already been lined up."

Minister Mancur explained that this year a major effort will be made to promote the planting of sugar cane for alcohol fuel production, which will solve the current problem of the limited market for Guatemalan sugar.

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CSO: 3248/307

GUYANA

REPORTAGE ON, REACTION TO COUNCIL OF CHURCHES DOCUMENT

Initial CHRONICLE Comment

Georgetown SUNDAY CHRONICLE in English 10 Mar 85 p 6

[Item headed "Sunday Comment": "The Mission of the Church? For a text of the Guyana Council of Churches document in question, see FBIS Latin America DAILY REPORT, Vol VI, No 065, 4 April 1985 pp T-1-T 4]

[Text]

ON TUESDAY, the Guyana Council of Churches [GCC] will stage its Annual General Meeting.

In preparation for the discussions and "a plan of action" to be formulated at that convocation, the GCC has issued a working document to some of its members.

This document, the theme of which is "The Role of the Churches in the Search for a solution to the National Crisis", was circulated in February and should have been discussed at a series of meetings in the 10 Administrative Regions.

It will also be discussed tomorrow at a one-day Consultation, in which a wide cross-section of the Christian Community is expected to participate.

This move by the GCC is indeed welcome, for there is no doubt that our churches, including those not affiliated to the GCC, have the potential to play a constructive role in the promotion of Guyana's economic and social development.

It is also heartening to note that the GCC has taken

steps to ensure that a wide cross-section of the Christian Community is involved in these discussions. In this regard it is at one with Government, which through the process of Regionalisation, is attempting to involve as many Guyanese as possible in the decision making process.

But while the theme is indeed a relevant one, the document itself is not balanced in its assessment of the origins of and reasons for the present national economic difficulties.

For example, the document claims that nationalisation, per se, is responsible for many of our economic difficulties, a false precept undoubtedly, since right here in the Caribbean there is the example of Jamaica, where nationalisation was not embarked upon and where the economy is in tatters.

It fails to give recognition to the undeniable truth, that Guyana's problems like those of all other developing countries, spring not only from internal factors, but mainly from the current depressed international

economic situation.

The low prices we receive for our major commodities, the high prices we pay for imported products, the high interest rates we pay to Western lending institutions have without doubt taken their toll.

We acknowledge that we are not without our internal problems — the heavy illegal outflow of foreign currency and precious minerals is but one.

The document also refers to the Church in Guyana having a mixed record. Such a record, of course, does include exploitation of the poor and manipulation by the powerful. It was not so many years ago that persons, badly in need of jobs, had to assume the trappings of some denominations to acquire positions.

There were those who became men of the cloth because it was a lucrative proposition, and not because they felt the hand of God on their lives. Today, because of such unholy recruitment, there are priests who do not live what they preach.

It is good that the GCC

has seen the need to identify with the poor. But we will never be fully convinced of such concern until we see the poor filling pews which are now empty for Sunday services. For, surely, the first task of any truly Christian organisation is to tell others about Christ and His saving grace.

So unbalanced is the GCC document, so openly one-sided in its assessment of our problems is it, that it can only be regarded as a political pamphlet.

It should be noted here that although the document was prepared by "Council Staff," it clearly states, in the first paragraph, that 'it does not reflect official council views and opinions'.

We hope that these discrepancies and obvious falsehoods in the GCC document do not mar tomorrow's and Tuesday's discussions and prevent serious and fruitful discussions on the role of the Churches in the nation's

growth.

The need for serious discussions at the GCC meetings this week cannot be over emphasised, for in the past, there have been infiltrators seeking to divert from the true aim of the Church by becoming involved in partisan politics.

One of the first things the GCC and the churches need to do is to seek to understand the real reasons for the present national economic situation.

It is hoped that the GCC will also seek true dialogue with Government — at all levels, including the Regional Democratic Councils, and other organisations genuinely interested in solving the problems of the Guyanese People, rather than exploiting their grievances for narrow political ends.

We wish the GCC a fruitful and rewarding Annual General Meeting — one that will contribute to the growth and development of this dear land of ours.

Rejection by 'Concerned Christians'

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 11 Mar 85 pp 1, 8

[Text] Churches in Guyana should "bind up wounds, promote peace and unity among Guyanese and not attempt to scatter the sheep," Hyacinth Cunningham of the Methodist Church said last night.

Cde. Cunningham told a gathering of over 500 Concerned Christians at St. Rose's High School that the churches should work at the grass roots level, explaining the real causes of the problems facing Guyana and pointing to solutions of these problems. In the gathering were officials of the Anglican, Moravian, Congregational, Methodist and New Jerusalem Churches, together with Government representatives.

The Rt. Reverend Dr. C. Wright, was also there. Urging "participation and not confrontation", she said Guyanese should have pride in their country and work together for the good of Guyana, solving their problems by themselves. People tend to resist change, because these innovations are not understood or not correctly interpreted, she noted.

The gathering of Concerned Christians, which included the Dean of Georgetown, Reverend Dereck Goodrich met to discuss a paper prepared by the staff of the GCC on "The Role of the Churches in the search for a solution to the National Crisis".

The paper, issued last month, was to be discussed at a series of regional meetings leading up to the Annual General Meeting of the Guyana Council of Churches tomorrow, when a plan of action on the churches' role is expected to be formulated. It is also to be examined at a one-day consultation today, when it is expected that a large number of Christians will participate.

In an assessment of the origins of the present economic situation in Guyana, the paper which states it does not reflect official council views and opinions, contends that nationalisation is one of the main reasons for Guyana's economic difficulties.

Vicar of St. Philip's Anglican Church, Reverend Gilbert Harris, another speaker at last night's meeting, noted that several external factors, including low prices for Third World raw materials and the high cost of imported inputs, are contributing to the economic difficulties of not only Guyana, but of all developing countries.

He pointed to Jamaica, where there had been no nationalisation, and which is now experiencing serious economic problems, compounded by the recent closure of the operations of two multinational bauxite companies.

Responding to allegations of low production and a decline in the living standards in Guyana included in the GCC paper, Father Harris pointed to the two per cent real growth in the economy in 1984.

He also noted among other things, that export earnings from rice increased from 64.9 million dollars in 1983 to \$82.3 million last year, while bauxite sales revenue increased by 73 per cent last year.

The GCC paper does not take all these facts into consideration, he said. He called on the Council to reflect on these and similar points when drawing up its plan of action on the churches' role in promoting national development. Also speaking last night was Reverend Llewelyn Fraser of the New Jerusalem Church, who noted that his church had been refused membership of the GCC.

After the presentation, there was lively discussion from the floor. Many contributors disassociated themselves indignantly from the GCC document.

Meanwhile, a resolution passed at the end of the meeting described the GCC working paper as "tendentious, factually inaccurate and intellectually dishonest."

Stressing that the paper does not reflect the views of all members of the Church in Guyana, the gathering of Concerned Christians called on the GCC to reject the document as being "mischievous, misleading and wicked."

The resolution called on the GCC to disassociate itself from "political flirtations with those who seek to subvert and destabilise our dear land of Guyana," and to focus its attention on identifying ways in which it could contribute in an enlightened way to the development of Guyanese. The Resolution will be presented to the GCC today by a delegation led by Chriaman of last night's proceeding Newton Profit.

And, in his introductory remarks, Cde Profitt, while commending the GCC for its intention to involve all Christians in examining the merits and demerits of the paper, noted that the majority of the members of GCC appear to know nothing about the paper.

He said there had been no discussion on the paper at formal meetings of the GCC, noting that it has too long been the practice of church leaders to make statements on behalf of their members, members who are never given the opportunity to express their views and opinions.

It is time that this practice is ended, Cde Profitt stressed.

Concerned Christians' Resolution

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 12 Mar 85 p 8

[Text]

Cde Newton Profitt of the Adult Education Association yesterday delivered a Concerned Christians resolution to the Guyana Council of Churches, asking that a document being studied by the GCC for discussions at today's annual general meeting be rejected.

The handing over was at a meeting at the Diocesan Youth Centre, Subryanville, where the GCC held a consultation on the document.

Yesterday's meeting served as an opportunity for Christians of various denominations to state their views on the Church's role.

At the session Newton Profitt, a member of the Anglican community, presented a resolution on behalf of a group of Concerned Christians rejecting the GCC paper as "tendentious, factually inaccurate and intellectually dishonest."

A number of participants expressed grave concern at the failure of the officials conducting the meeting to provide copies of the controversial "working paper" and their failure to accommodate open discussion of the document.

When requests for discussion of the document were refused, it was proposed from the floor that as a consequence the "working document" be withdrawn from the agenda of today's meeting. This request, too, was denied by the chair.

The document is therefore being taken to the AGM for consideration while some interested Christians have been prevented from critically viewing the many highly questionable claims made in the paper.

The GCC paper claims among other things, that nationalisation is a major reason for Guyana's current economic difficulties.

The resolution which calls on the GCC to disassociate itself from "political flirtations with those who seek to subvert and destabilise Guyana was read to those present by Richmond, who later said that the GCC paper does not reflect official Council views and opinions.

It is understood that several proposals coming out of yesterday's sessions on the role of the Church and the GCC over the next year will be submitted for consideration at the GCC's annual general meeting today.

Among the other points raised yesterday afternoon were that:

- ☆ The Churches and the GCC should place more emphasis on activities in rural communities since, as it was pointed out, people at the grass roots level were not involved in decision-making in the Church;

- ☆ The Church should be more objective and broadminded; and

- ☆ The Church should place greater emphasis on educational programmes and projects to promote social and economic development.

AME Church's Stand

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 13 Mar 85 p 4

[Text]

THE AME Church in Guyana has issued a statement divorcing itself from the document entitled "The Role of the Church in the search for a solution to the National Crisis."

Here is the AME statement:

On behalf of Dr. Hawley E. Hinds A.A. Presiding Elder of the A.M.E. Church, myself Uklyn Hendricks, A.M.E. representative on the Executive Council of the Guyana Council of Churches and the Constituency of A.M.E. Worshipers, I wish to categorically deny any involvement in the writing of, or endorsement of the paper

entitled "The Role of the Churches in the search for a solution to the National Crisis" alleged to have been written by G.C.C. Staff.

In our view the paper reflects anti-government sentiments and is diametrically opposed to our views as A.M.E.'s

We have enjoyed long and healthy relations with the P.N.C. government and wish to make it abundantly clear that the A.M.E. Church will not join in or support any force, within or outside of the church which seeks in any way to destabilise or undermine the said P.N.C. Government.

Concerned Christians on GCC Meeting

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 13 Mar 85 p 5

[Text]

CONCERNED Christians in Guyana view with great displeasure the behaviour of the executive of the Guyana Council of Churches (GCC) in relation to the annual general meeting which was expected to take place yesterday.

In a statement last evening, a spokesman for the Concerned Christians noted that yesterday morning, in response to the GCC's initiative to stimulate interest among the Christians to attend both the AGM and the one-day consultation which will precede it, a large number of members of the churches which constitute the Guyana Council of Churches and other Christians turned up at the venue, but were prevented from participating in the meeting by the authorities who even summoned the Police to remove these peace loving people.

As Concerned Christians, we see the attitude of the GCC as contradicting its call for dialogue among Christians and openly discriminatory against those whose per-

ceptions seem not to coincide with those of the minority clique in control of the GCC, the statement added.

The statement also pointed out that this view is further reinforced by the decision of that clique to postpone yesterday's proceedings and its stated intention to reconvene the proceedings at a later date at a secret venue.

As Concerned Christians, we urge vigilance by all Guyanese lest a mischievous minority of the members of GCC, claiming to speak in the name of the churches in Guyana, persist in their efforts to cause disunity and divert our energies from the urgent problems of development facing the nation, the statement said.

The Concerned Christians further noted that it is clear, from their stated position i.e. "to bring down the mighty from their thrones," and their unchristian behaviour, that they are engaged in yet another political battle aimed at deposing the national Government.

30 April 1985

Report on GCC Postponement

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 13 Mar 85 p 5

[Text] Interest in the controversial "working paper" of the Guyana Council of Churches (GCC) reached a high pitch yesterday, resulting in the council's annual general meeting not taking place.

A virtual impasse was created when scores of persons who were refused entry to the meeting venue, the Diocesan Youth Centre in Georgetown, congregated in the entrance, barring further entry. Among those locked out by the GCC was leading member of the Anglican Community in Guyana, Newton Proffitt.

Members of various denominations and members of the Press who were also denied entry, had turned up at the meeting place in anticipation of a session of critical discussion of the GCC's working paper.

The document, entitled "The role of the churches in the search for a solution to the national crisis," has been condemned in some religious and other circles as "misleading," and aimed at mobilising political opposition to bring down the Government.

Prepared by GCC staff, the paper was to be discussed by interested Christians countrywide, before being taken to the AGM planned for yesterday.

Today's meeting was intended to arrive at a plan of action for the GCC based on discussions of the document.

Up to Monday, however, at a preliminary meeting held at the D.Y.C., Council officials declined to circulate or read the controversial document, despite requests from the floor.

Selective

When it became apparent yesterday that entry to the meeting was to be on a selective basis, a number of persons congregated in the entrance, effectively barring newcomers, and calling for open entry to the meeting.

The demonstrators later withdrew, but the meeting still failed to start as some of the organisers claimed there were persons inside not "eligible" to be part of the planned meeting.

Early in the afternoon, about a dozen Church officials straggled out of the centre, past scores of persons waiting in the centre compound after being denied entry to the meeting hall.

Earlier, GCC Chairman, Moravian Minister George Richmond refused to comment to the press on the developments yesterday.

Baptists' Disassociation

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 14 Mar 85 p 1

[Text] Another group of Christian Churches has dissociated itself from the controversial "working paper" of the Guyana Council of Churches (GCC).

The Guyana Missionary Baptist Churches issued a statement yesterday denying any connection with the GCC paper, and stating: "We have always supported the President and the Government by our prayers and loyalty."

Christian groups and other members of the community have issued statements highly critical of the document prepared by GCC staff, entitled "The role of the Churches in the search for a solution to the national crisis."

The Missiary Baptist Churches' statement, issued from the Campbellville local headquarters, added that: "In these days of crisis and change, we shall continue to pray for Guyana and its leaders."

"We do not need confrontation with the Government Almighty God still answers prayers. We therefore pledge our prayerful and loyal support to our Government."

This statement, signed by Missionary Baptist Superintendent, Mrs. Erma Miller and issued "on behalf of our Church Minister, members of our Executive Boards and our general membership" ends: "May God bless us with continued peace and prosperity."

'Unconstitutional' Charge

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 16 Mar 85 p 1

[Text] President of the Family Life Commission of the Guyana Council of Churches (GCC) Ovril Smith said yesterday the circulation of the GCC's controversial "Working Paper" was a departure from constitutional procedure and personally disappointing.

"I have had a long association with the Guyana Council of Churches and feel very unhappy about the present situation that has arisen because of the Working Paper", she said.

The Commission's President is a non-voting member of the GCC Executive Committee, representing the Family Life Commission. Her statement yesterday came amidst the controversy created by the GCC paper, which has been widely criticised as misleading.

Smith, who was appointed to the Family Life Commission by the Guyana Congregational Union, said the title of the "Working Paper"--"The role of the Churches in the search for a solution to the national crisis", had given her "a feeling of hope."

However, she added, this feeling "was destroyed as the contents of the paper did not fully discuss either the role or the solutions."

The document, she noted, "was circulated with the GCC stamp affixed at the bottom, but as stated on the first page, does not reflect official Council views and opinions.

"The constitution of the GCC sets out the procedures to be followed before an official statement may be issued on behalf of the Council. This procedure has not been followed with regard to this document, so that in deed and in fact, it is not official and should not be regarded as the views of the GCC", she said.

In the circumstances, she said, it was her opinion that the document should not have been written in the first place.

WPA Organ on Government Actions

Georgetown DAYCLEAN in English 16 Mar 85 pp 1, 2

[Text] However you look at it, the Guyana Council of Churches was prevented from holding its Annual General Meeting. Nobody believes that a church "working paper" can threaten the government of Guyana - so why did the ruling party bring out its big guns? It must be feeling very insecure to jump on the church like that. But this is not the way to win friends. This is not how you build unity. Many, including PNC members and supporters, were alarmed at the level of aggression directed against the church. But they were even more worried at what they saw to be a high level of madness in the leadership of the PNC. Yesterday's CHRONICLE article 'sighting' Bishop George's travel plans was just plain silly. The AME and Missionary Baptists are crying out, "Not me, not me!" What is going on?

The Ministry of National Development vs the Ministry of Christ

This week a group calling itself "Concerned Christians" broke up the Annual General Meeting of the Guyana Council of Churches. According to a statement issued by the GCC, the meeting could not take place "because delegates were prevented from entering the premises by men and teenage boys, supervised by senior figures from the Ministry of National Development and the House of Israel." Although the Behaviour of these officials, men and teenage boys was thug-like, the churches' statement did not describe them as thugs. Citizens who saw them in action did.

The first public appearance of this group of Concerned Christians was last Sunday night. At the head of the pack was Dr. Ptolemy Reid. According to the NEW NATION, his new "situation" is that of "Peasant Farmer and Deputy Leader". He is the regime's leading Hindu developer. He said that he regarded his Phagwah efforts this year as the "first" in his new "situation". His next was his leadership of the Concerned Christians.

Another Concerned Christian who featured prominently in the St Rose's gathering was the PNC General Secretary and head of the Cuffy Ideological School, Mr Ranji Chandisingh.

Yet another was PNC Pandit Gowkarran Sharma who is the head of the Guyana and Caribbean Pandits Council.

On the first day of the GCC meeting, the PNC sent its "Peasant Farmer and Deputy Leader", Dr Reid; its party treasurer, Mrs Hyacinth Godette; its Mayor of Georgetown, Ms Mavis Benn; two of its leading trade unionists, Mrs Agnes Bend-Kirton and Miss Jean Persico, head of the teachers' union; and the head of the Adult Education Association, Mr Newton Profitt-head cdes all. Because of the firm handling of the meeting by the Chairman of the Guyana Council of Churches, Rev George Richmond, they failed to break up the meeting. The Concerned Christians planned for the second day of the meeting.

On Tuesday morning over a hundred House of Israel and others were mobilised by the Ministry of National Development to invade the GCC meeting. They surrounded the building, barricaded the entrances and prevented church representatives from entering or leaving the building. On this day, Cde Emerson Simon, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of National Development was in charge. The GCC statement said that "Despite numerous phone calls the police refused to act for several hours. After two visits by Bishop George a police contingent eventually arrived at midday and cleared the ground... When the police left, the grounds were again occupied and one man who gained entrance to the building, prevented any further business from being conducted. The police made no attempt to evict the man after his trespass had been brought to their attention".

The police were in a spot. The GCC statement said that the "disruptive group identified themselves as acting on behalf of the ruling party". The men told the police that the PNC sent them. Later Cde Emerson Simon was seen sitting in the police vehicle, parked in the nearby yard of GDR Colonel Morgan's home, directing operations.

DAYCLEAN does not for one moment believe that any of this had to do with any "working paper". It has more to do with the fact that some church leaders joined with trade unions to request some international bodies to look at Guyana's electoral legislation.

In 1932 when the German Nazi party believed that the church was not toeing the line, it started the GERMAN CHRISTIANS to get the church to accept Nazi teaching. When in 1936 one Christian body wrote to Hitler about his treatment of the Jews, he declared war on the church.

Dr P Reid, writing as Special Adviser to the President, from Sophia, addressed an appeal to "dear Christian Leaders". Some of these dear Christian leaders received their copy of the appeal at 5 a.m. Monday by National Development couriers. Dr Reid wants them to see things from a PNC point of view. He asked them to get correct information. He asked them not to be ignorant.

As Dr Reid is so interested in "informatics", will he advise the President to publish the 1980 Census Report? The assets of the PNC leaders? IFAD's opinion on wheat flour? Will he publish the malnutrition figures? Will he advise the President's lawyers to hold hearings of libel motions in open court and not in chambers? Will he admit party scrutineers into voter registration as they used to be admitted up to 1964? Will they publish the salaries and allowances of the rulers in the daily papers? These are "informatics" that the poor and hungry want. And the GBC - Why will it not give political parties free radio time, as in Nicaragua, or allow them to buy time? How can a dictatorship that is so closed call on the GCC to be so open? How can the regime's call for national unity be serious when it stamps on the church like this?

Let us recall the killing of Fr Bernard Darke on July 14, 1979, camera in hand, by the House of Israel. Let us recall the killing of Archbishop Romero in March 1980 by the death squads of Constituent Assembly President Roberto D'Aubuisson. The address of these Concerned Christians is "Georgetown, Guyana". On Sunday night they got St Rose's High School to hold their meeting. On Monday night their views were put over the radio by Mr Newton Profitt. They already have all the keys to the Kingdom - buildings, press and radio. It is right to be alarmed by them.

CATHOLIC STANDARD Report

Georgetown CATHOLIC STANDARD in English 17 Mar 85 pp 1,4

[Text]

MEMBERS of the House of Israel sect and other PNC supporters prevented the Annual General Meeting of the Guyana Council of Churches from taking place last Tues. by blocking the entrance to the Diocesan Youth Centre in Subryanville and stopping delegates from entering or leaving.

The intruders first occupied the seats in the meeting hall and on being called out, gathered on the street, formed a barrier on the bridge or squatted in the yard.

Bishop Randolph George, whose Church owns the building, was among the many delegates who were not allowed to pass, though he tried to push his way through.

He twice reported the matter at Police Headquarters, Eve Leary. Neither the Commissioner nor his deputy were available, but he spoke to Assistant Commissioner Harper.

GCC chairman George Richmond

had already contacted the police and many others did the same in the course of the morning, but the police failed to take effective action.

Catholic Standard Editor Fr. Andrew Morrison made many calls to Crime Chief Skip Roberts and his deputy Mr. McRae. Not until 11.55 hrs, however, did a vehicle arrive with an inspector, three policemen and one policewoman. They gradually got the intruders to disperse.

After the police left, the grounds were again occupied and one man gained entrance to the building, preventing any further business from being conducted.

The police on their return made no attempt to evict the man after his trespass had been brought to their attention.

It was then decided to postpone the AGM to a date to be fixed.

In a release the next day the GCC declared, "The Council can only deplore this resort to the use

of force by the governing authorities to prevent the meeting taking place, because they fear adverse comments may be made.

"Likewise the Council is gravely disturbed by the inability of the police to respond swiftly and positively to such outrageous breaches of the law"

The PNC's behaviour was a panic reaction to a paper prepared by the Guyana Council of Churches' staff, entitled "The Role of the Churches in the Search for a Solution of the National Crisis".

The paper was intended to stimulate church members to plan an action programme in support of the poor.

Undoubtedly, it succeeded in stimulating the PNC to act against the publication.

A small group of top PNC members were reported to have met at the Ministry of Education on Sat. March 9 to plan action.

The next day the Sunday Chronicle, the party's mouthpiece, carried an editorial describing the GCC paper as "so unbalanced and so openly one-sided that it can only be regarded as a political pamphlet".

An advertisement below the editorial announced a 'Gathering of Concerned Christians' at St. Rose's High School for that evening "to discuss the true role of the Church in today's developing Guyana".

PNC top brass were very much in evidence at this meeting of 'concerned Christians' - Special Adviser to the President Dr. Ptolemy Reid, Political Adviser to the President Elvin McDavid, PNC General Secretary Ranji Chandisingh, 1st Vice President Hamilton Green, Minister of Information Harewood-Benn, Gokarran Sharma, Head of the Hindu

Pundits Council, together with members of the House of Israel and four bus-loads of other 'Concerned Christians'.

The GCC paper was not read at the meeting, yet a resolution was passed describing it as "tendentious, factually inaccurate and intellectually dishonest", and calling on the GCC to reject the document as being "mischievous, misleading and wicked".

Meanwhile, the GCC had invited the public to join in a day of discussion at the Diocesan Youth Centre on the Monday in preparation for the AGM.

To this meeting the PNC top brass came in force. Among them were Dr. Reid, Mayor Benn, Minister Bend-Kirton, President of the GFA Jean Persico and PNC Central Committee member Mrs. Godette.

This group tried in vain to divert the meeting from its agenda in order to have the GCC paper discussed, with a view to taking a vote on it.

Chairman Rev. George Richmond, however, politely but firmly insisted on the meeting being conducted in an orderly manner and invited members to discuss points relating to the paper after hearing a talk by CCWU President Gordon Todd.

Having failed to get the meeting to vote on the paper, the PNC, through Mr. Newton Profitt, Chairman of the Congress of Local Democratic organs and chairman of the 'Concerned Christians' meeting, was allowed to present the resolution passed the night before.

Most of the PNC members then left and did not return for the afternoon session.

Before they left they distributed a paper prepared by Dr. Reid with the same title as the GCC paper.

Port-of-Spain Coverage

Port-of-Spain SUNDAY EXPRESS in English 17 Mar 85 p 29

[Text]

MEMBERS of the House of Israel
Sect and other People's National
Congress (PNC) supporters, su-

30 April 1985

pervised by senior figures from the Ministry of National Development and Mobilisation and the House of Israel, prevented the annual general meeting of the Guyana Council of Churches from taking place last Thursday by blocking the entrance to the Anglican Diocesan Youth Centre in Georgetown and stopping delegates from entering and leaving.

The intruders first occupied the seats in the meeting hall and, on being called out, gathered on the street, formed a barrier on the bridge and squatted in the yard.

Bishop Randolph George, whose church owns the building, was among the many delegates who were not allowed to pass through. He tried to push his way through and twice reported the matter at the Georgetown Police Headquarters. Neither the Commissioner nor his deputy were available.

Catholic Standard Editor Father Andrew Morrison made many calls to Crime Chief Skip Roberts and his deputy McRae but not until noon did a vehicle arrive with a contingent of police. They gradually got the intruders to disperse.

After the police left, the grounds were again occupied and one man entered the building, preventing further business from being conducted. The police, on their return, made attempts to evict the man after his trespass had been brought to their attention. It was then decided to postpone the meeting to a date to be fixed.

The PNC's behaviour was a panic reaction to a paper prepared by the GCC staff entitled "The role of the churches in the search for a solution of the national crisis".

The paper was intended to stimulate church members to plan an action programme in support of the poor and disadvantaged at the meeting. Undoubtedly it succeeded in stimulating the PNC to act against the publication. A small group of top PNC members were reported to have met at the Ministry of Education on March 9 to plan action.

The next day the Sunday Chronicle, the party's mouthpiece, carried an editorial describing the GCC paper as "so unbalanced and so openly one-sided and it can only be regarded as a

political pamphlet."

An advertisement below the editorial announced a "gathering of concerned Christians" at St Rose's High School for that evening "to discuss the true role of the church in the day-to-day developing Guyana."

At this meeting, PNC top brass was very much in evidence: chairman of the Central Committee and special advisor to the president Dr Ptolemy Reid; political advisor to the president Elvin Mc David; PNC general secretary Ranji Chandisingh; first vice president Hamilton Green; Minister of Information Harewood Benn and head of the Hindu Pundits' Council Gowkaran Sharma with members of the House of Israel and four busloads of other "concerned Christians."

The GCC paper was not read at the meeting, yet a resolution was passed describing it as "tendentious, factually inaccurate and intellectually dishonest."

Meanwhile, the GCC had invited the public to join in a day of discussion at the Diocesan Youth Centre on the Monday in preparation for the annual general meeting. To this meeting, the PNC top brass came in force.

This group tried in vain to divert the meeting from its agenda in order to have the GCC paper discussed with a view to taking a vote on it.

Chairman Rev George Richmond, however, politely but firmly insisted on the meeting being conducted in an orderly manner and invited the gathering to discuss points relating to the paper.

Having failed to get the meeting to vote on the paper, the PNC, through Newton Profitt, the chairman of the "concerned Christian", the meeting was allowed to present the resolution passed the night before. Most of the PNC group then left and did not return for the afternoon session. Before they left they distributed a paper prepared by Dr Reid with the same title as the GCC paper.

Suggestions that would have come to the AGM from the Monday meeting included one which urged the GCC to give top priority to social action to meet the crisis. Another asked the council to use all its resources to ensure that elections due this year be free and fair.

OPEN WORD Slap at Government

Georgetown OPEN WORD in English 17 Mar 85 p 1

[Text] Why do the heathen so furiously rage together? And why do the ungodly imagine a vain thing?

The overnight Concerned Christians are raging furiously. Their statements are full of vain imagination. And they know it quite well.

When most non-political Guyanese had put the issue aside with the comment "What is all this about", as they turned the pages of the CHRONICLE, Mr Carl Blackman, a respected journalist of long standing joined the campaign to discredit the Council of Churches. His usual balance left him altogether. Every opinion was against the GCC. He did not even see that the church's paper called on it to practise democracy before it could demand it at the national level. Mr Blackman's failing vision is a real tragedy. Yesterday's SUNDAY CHRONICLE also front-paged more attacks on the head of the Anglican Church, making a big issue of his visit to the USA.

Has the Guyana government broken off diplomatic relations with the US government?

If the government is looking for an expression of right wing ideology, it had better look at the murder squads with their own gold board and armoury which are terrorising the countryside and look at the strongly racist emphasis on their crimes. This is the right wing in practice and it does not come from the Guyana Council of Churches.

Perhaps some people in the ruling party may wish to remember their own visits to the USA in times past, when according to the literature, they "spoke softly in hotel rooms".

Perhaps some of the penpushers and concerned Christians of the ruling party may wish to recall the statement of Mr L F S Burnham, who is now a leading "anti-imperialist and socialist orientation" advocate. OPEN WORD would not raise these points now had it not been for the mischievous attacks in the state press on a Guyanese churchman.

Mr Burnham said (see Destiny to Mould) that he was on the inside of a deal between the US trade unions and the Guyana unions which accepted "aid" from the US unions and "sources unfriendly to the working class" in the sixties.

Sadly, Mr Blackman's article selects Mr Mike McCormack, GCC Secretary for special targeting. He even mentions his national origin. Did he need this excuse to attack the paper? Of course, CRB headed the Chronicle when the court found that it violated Dr M Richmond's freedom of expression in 1978.

Now that there is much interest in the GCC paper, Chronicle should print it for people to see for themselves.

Additional Church Criticism

Georgetown SUNDAY CHRONICLE in English 17 Mar 85 pp 1, 9

[Text] Two more churches have joined other Christian denominations in expressing critical views on the Guyana Council of Churches (GCC) "Working Paper".

The paper, a source of much controversy in the Christian community, is entitled: "The Role of the Churches in the search for a solution to the National crisis."

In a statement on behalf of the Ehtiopian Orthodox Church, acting Priest-in-Charge, Reverend Ralph McA. Adams, said the paper "by its tone alone."

And a statement on behalf of the New Jerusalem Church, issued by Pastor Llewellyn Fraser, said it would be "dishonest and untrue" to imply that all Christians are associated with the controversial Working Paper.

"As leader of a Christian church I certainly deplore the contents of the Working Paper and consider them as mischievous, wicked, and certainly dishonest", the Pastor said.

The New Jerusalem Church is not a member of the GCC and he accused the GCC of discrimination and of not having the courtesy of reply to any of his church's two letters seeking membership. The GCC, he added, must decide whether its actions promote unity, stability and brotherly love or whether they "stir up unrest, dissatisfaction and even sedition."

The Ethiopian Orthodox Church's statement noted that: "While individuals and organisations must be interested in the social, political and economic health of the country and should share in discussions on those matters, it does not appear justifiable for the church to be in the forefront for what could be considered almost treasonable pursuits."

It added: "We cannot...associate ourselves with any extremist views. We support the government, have always done so, and by dialogue, consultation and co-operation very much can be achieved in the line of solving the present problems of our country."

The Ethiopian Orthodox Church also stressed, that what the church needs to look at is whether its present attitudes, teachings and behaviour are not contributory to the ills of our community. It asked: "How strong is the church today in terms of influencing people to deeds that are good? Why are so many people moving away from the church and how can the church stem the flow of its members to other areas?"

Concerned Christians' Call for Unity

Georgetown SUNDAY CHRONICLE in English 17 Mar 85 pp 1, 9

[Text] The Committee of Concerned Christians yesterday called on all Christians "to unite more firmly than ever before to resist efforts to use the churches for wholly improper political purposes."

In a statement released yesterday, the Concerned Christians also said they view "with uneasiness," the "sudden departure" of Bishop Randolph George to

the United States of America, two days after the "arbitrary postponement" of the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Guyana Council of Churches (GCC).

Bishop George, a leading figure in the GCC and in the controversy still raging over a document circulated by some members of the GCC which, among other things, called for the overthrow of the Guyana Government, flew out of Guyana on Thursday.

In their statement yesterday, the Concerned Christians accused a "controlling clique" within the GCC of seeking to fragment the society at a time when all-round unity is needed in Guyana to thwart the efforts of outside forces.

They noted also that the declared objective of some persons within the GCC is to use the churches as an instrument to mobilise extra-parliamentary action for the purpose of bringing down the Government.

The statement was issued in the wake of one released earlier this week by some members of the GCC alleging that the GCC was prevented from holding its AGM by "a disruptive group who identified themselves as acting on behalf of the ruling party."

In its statement, the GCC accused "the governing authorities" of resorting to the use of force to prevent the AGM from taking place. They also accused the Police of not responding swiftly to calls from the GCC.

A main bone of contention in the controversy is whether Concerned Christians had a right to be present at the meeting which was scheduled to be held at the Diocesan Youth Centre in Subryanville on Tuesday, February 12.

The Concerned Christians have pointed to paragraph two of the controversial document supported by some members of the GCC and condemned by others.

That paragraph reads in part:

"Between the circulation of the paper and the AGM, a series of meetings will be held in the regions to discuss the paper and to stimulate interest among Christians to attend both the AGM and the one-day Consultation."

The March 12 meetings, the Concerned Christians noted, was deferred after many Concerned Christians specially invited by the GCC were prevented by some members of the Executive Committee of the GCC from participating in the meeting and even entering the building.

They noted further that on Bishop George's intervention, the Police arrived and many invitees were forced to leave the building and compound.

They added: "The deliberate efforts by a clique on the Executive Committee of the GCC to prevent invitees from entering the building, to evict those who had entered and thereby, and otherwise, to prevent them from participating in the AGM, the barring of the national media from covering the AGM, the

postponement of the meeting itself to be held at a secret venue, and the sudden departure of Bishop George for the USA...are difficult to reconcile with the idea of an ecumenical exercise genuinely concerned to contribute to the betterment of our society and nation.

"They "deplored these machinations" of the "controlling clique" in the GCC and called on all Christians to unite "to resist efforts to use the churches for wholly improper political purposes, and to continue to work in the interest of peace and social progress in Guyana."

Blackman Criticism

Georgetown SUNDAY CHRONICLE in English 17 Mar 85 p 4

[Article by Carl Blackman]

[Text] Perhaps it is because of my Christian upbringing I was an (altar boy), but I was most embarrassed and distressed over what looked like a battle royal between supporters of the ruling party and other Concerned Christians and the Church.

But the more I read, the more I realised that the row was not with the Church or even with the Guyana Council of Churches but with a group using the name of the GCC as a cloak to hide their political ambitions--a group which calls for a plot to bring down the government.

These gentlemen of the cloth striking a self-righteous pose of injured innocence, contend that a straight-forward innocuous document setting out ideas "for a solution to the national crisis" has been deliberately misread and misinterpreted by the PNC and is being used as part of a smear campaign to further harass the Church.

I have read, and re-read the document I have sought clarification from sources close to the GCC. And I am still left with the inescapable conclusion that the paper which is a biased masterpiece of negativism and doubletalk was a not-too-subtle call for aggressive action. It blames all the ills of the Guyana society on the PNC's doctrine and philosophy of Cooperative Socialism.

It claims nationalisation of key sectors has brought about the collapse of the economy; that the co-operative sector never materialised and is being used by those close to the centres of power to get rich through capitalist enterprises; and the paramountcy of the party has meant the exclusion from power of all but the ruling party.

A Jagan or a Eusi Kwayana could not have said it better--or worse. These are not new charges against the party by opposition political groups. But the big difference is that when politicians say these things, we judge these statements against their political background and make our own deductions about their motivation and credibility.

With the Guyana Council of Churches, the situation is somewhat different.

The general public is likely to accept without question that it speaks with the moral authority of a united Church and therefore it has a right and a duty to comment dispassionately on all matters affecting the society and point the way forward to unity and progress.

Not even the most bold-faced supporters of the GCC could dare say the draft document fulfills those criteria. Instead when challenged, they bob and weave and 'bugaloo' on the question of the purpose of the document.

First we hear that the document was not a GCC document but prepared by 'the staff' to stimulate church members to plan an action programme in support of the poor. It was to be publicly discussed at a GCC meeting but there was to be no vote on it.

Strange state of affairs. But more about that later. The big question asked at the public meeting was that if it is was not an official document why were the words 'Guyana Council of Churches' written at the bottom? And also how could it be written without the authority and approval of the GCC?

I now understand that a gentleman named Mr. Mc Cormack, executive secretary to the GCC accepted responsibility for the document. Mr Mc who? Never heard of him. Never seen him jogging in the Park. Never seen him in a line for a cylinder of gas. Never even seen him at Sijan Plaza. So I rang up my Catholic friend who unravels intrigues and knows about that sort of document.

First answer: Mc Cormack? He is a Guyanese.

Second answer: He is a Guyanese citizen married to a Guyanese girl.

Third answer: He was granted citizenship years ago but he originally came from England.

Fourth answer: He taught at the University of Guyana. He was later released for no given reason and since we wanted an executive secretary we were delighted to hire him.

After this conversation I was more than ever convinced that mysterious Mr. Mc Cormack was the least qualified to prepare such a document.

The Concerned Christians at the GCC meeting passed a resolution describing the paper as "tendentious, factually inaccurate and intellectually dishonest" and calling on the GCC to reject the document as being "misleading, mischievous and wicked."

I hope the non-political members of the GCC heed the call and not be manipulated by others who apparently are motivated not so much by concern for the poor, but, sad to say, hatred for the PNC government.

The paper openly calls for an alliance 'to bring down the might from their thrones'--and I am certain they do not hope to achieve this through fervent prayer.

Incidentally, I asked my Catholic friend what was meant by 'bringing down the mighty from their thrones' and he disarmingly declared it was just a biblical phrase. Good. But why single out that phrase. There is an even stronger exhortation (I think) somewhere in Romans which says in effect "support your government and pray for the leaders".

But back to basics: Why was this document written at all? My malicious mind has concocted two scenarios and both are tied up with the election strategies of various opposition groups.

Scenario A: the document really was not intended to be voted on. But it is a handy bit of paper to publish abroad disguised as a dispassionate piece of research by what in the minds of the international community would be considered an organisation of the highest integrity.

Scenario B. The document would have been discussed and had the Concerned Christians not been around, a resolution would have appeared like an apparition and passed by ringing acclamation.

You may wonder why did the GCC go to all that trouble when the same sort of gall and vinegar is being churned out by other opposition groups? For example, the Guyana Human Rights Association is likely to put out another document similar in content. And, if you take a close look at the executive members and prime movers in the GHRA and the executive and prime movers in the GCC you will come across many of the same names on both lists. Why don't they merge? Here's why. If one group makes an allegation, it is open to question but if ten make the same accusation it gains credibility. And, if usually prestigious organisations like a human rights or ecumenical group add their support, it becomes unassailable as if written on two tablets of stone. So the more opposition organisations the merrier.

If after being motivated by the highest of principles, the GCC's position turns out to be the same as political groups, so be it.

But this document, unworthy of true Christians, muchless leaders of the Church is openly political. It can find nothing but blame for the PNC for our crisis. It ignores the fact that low prices for exports and high prices for oil are crippling the Third World. It fails to mention acts of destabilisation, vetoes and boycotts.

And, with unrivalled hypocrisy it suddenly becomes champions of the poor, calls on the poor doctors, the poor lawyers, the poor taxi-drivers, the poor Guytraders to pick up their crosses--perhaps cutlasses for non-Christians--and topple the mighty from their apparently crumbling rice flour thrones.

Poor Guyana I What we need today are not thinly veiled exhortations to violence, but some respected, politically unaffiliated group to help us to keep the faith, bind our wounds and spread the gospel of unity through this our hour of travail.

The GCC in proper circumstances, would be the group most likely to fill that role. Instead, some of its members have joined the sinister worldwide propaganda

campaign to portray this nation as some modern day Gomorrah on the Atlantic, condemned forever to political and economic purgatory.

Let me however give a bit of advice to those who pray for doom and use texts from the bible in an effort to find justification for their knavish tricks. The Beatitudes is a good place to start and they will realise that the meek shall inherit the earth and the children of God will be the peacemakers-- not the strife-makers.

CSO: 3298/512

GUYANA

DETAILS OF VENEZUELAN OFFICIALS' VISITS REPORTED

Morales on Improving Ties

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 9 Feb 85 pp 1, 5

[Article by Kamini Persaud]

[Text] Guyana and Venezuela yesterday both stressed the value of dialogue in promoting understanding and agreement between States, and have pledged to explore all possible means of improving bilateral relations.

Visiting Venezuelan Foreign Minister Isidro Morales Paul told guests at a formal luncheon at Hermandston House, that his country wished "to strengthen the bonds of friendship and cooperation with Guyana."

Morales Paul who ends a four-day visit to Guyana today was replying to remarks made earlier by his Guyanese counterpart, Cde Rashleigh Jackson.

Cde Jackson said the dialogue between the two countries, at the level of Foreign Ministers, initiated four months ago during the 39th session of the UN General Assembly has shown "more clearly pathways which we (Guyana and Venezuela) might travel together." And, describing Morales Paul's visit as "a new beginning" in relations between the two neighbours, the Guyanese Foreign Minister said discussions over the last few days have "illuminated several possibilities for cooperation..."

"Let us therefore explore to the full a new horizon of peace and friendship, one which can be opened to us through an enlightened approach," he urged.

In this regard, the Venezuelan Foreign Minister conveyed President Jalme Lusinchí's wish to see "a sharing of experiences" between Guyana and Venezuela, so that the two countries might become "supporting elements of programmes of economic and social development for both countries."

Both Foreign Ministers noted that Guyana and Venezuela belong to the same region and confront similar problems, particularly in the economic and social spheres.

They also referred to the Guyana-Venezuela territorial controversy arising out of Venezuela's contention that the 1899 Arbitral Award is null and void.

Morales Paul described the territorial controversy as "a situation inherited from a colonial past". Venezuela, he said, wants a solution that is "amicable, reasonable and acceptable to both parties."

Under the 1966 Geneva Agreement, the territorial issue is now in the hands of the UN Secretary-General, who is entrusted with selecting a suitable means of settlement.

The Venezuelan Foreign Minister said: "We do not want solutions that history will view as being the result of injustice, action or influence of those who are more powerful, or conspiracies of interests of imperial eras. The solution must fulfil one single condition: bringing together our peoples."

Earlier, Cde Jackson had described the territorial controversy as "the fundamental problem" between Guyana and Venezuela. He, however, stressed that although relations between the two countries have in the past been "cyclical in nature" and subjected to "ups and downs", future relations need not respond to "those traditional rhythms".

It was Guyana's desire "to live in peace with you (Venezuela) and to engage in meaningful co-operation for mutual benefit...", he added. The Guyanese Foreign Minister also pointed out that the two countries have undertaken to "do everything possible to facilitate the UN Secretary-General's efforts."

And, on the regional ties of the two countries, Morales Paul said the present "historical moment highlights ever more clearly the growing inter-dependency of peoples and nations."

"In the present state of the world economy and within the framework of the difficulties facing Latin America and the Caribbean, regional co-operation and particularly economic and technical co-operation between our countries are matters of unquestionable viability," he stressed.

Expressing Guyana's view on this point, Foreign Minister Jackson noted that the two neighbours have been co-operating in groupings such as SELA, and the G-77. Guyana, he said, will continue its efforts "to strengthen the solidarity of the Third World."

Cde. Jackson expressed appreciation for Venezuela's efforts within the Contadora Group, which is trying to find a peaceful political solution to the problems in Central America.

Encouraging Venezuela to maintain these efforts, Cde Jackson contended that if the Contadora process ends "in a stalemate or in failure, a political vacuum would be created," thus opening the door "for military adventurism, a development which all peace-loving countries and peoples would wish to avoid."

Officials of both countries have undertaken to ensure that the co-operation steps agreed on during Morales Paul's visit are implemented.

The Guyanese Foreign Minister said this country was "satisfied" with the results of the current talks, during which the two Foreign Ministers exchanged views on bilateral and international issues, and officials of the two countries discussed co-operation in areas such as public health, education, fishing and trade.

Morales on Territorial Dispute

Georgetown SUNDAY CHRONICLE in English 10 Feb 85 pp 1, 9

[Article by Kamini Persaud]

[Text] Venezuela's Minister of Foreign Relations Isidro Morales Paul has described his visit to Guyana as "highly successful".

He said it had provided an opportunity for "a fruitful exchange of views" on ways for improving bilateral relations between the two neighbours.

Morales, who arrived here Wednesday for a four-day official visit was speaking to local journalists and foreign correspondents in Guyana yesterday at the National Film Centre.

In a statement to the press, he listed some of the specific programmes of co-operation discussed by officials of the two countries over the last few days.

He also referred to the Guyana-Venezuela territorial controversy, arising out of Venezuela's Contention that the 1899 arbitral award is null and void. An essential prerequisite for the solution of this controversy, Morales said, is "understanding co-operation and goodwill between our nations."

Efforts by the Contadora group, which includes Venezuela, to find a peaceful political solution to the Central American conflict, and the debt problem of Latin American and other developing countries were other issues addressed by the Venezuelan Foreign Minister.

A joint statement, issued yesterday, noted that the territorial controversy had been examined against "the background of the new spirit of friendship and co-operation" characterising bilateral relations between Guyana and Venezuela. Morales and his Guyanese counterpart Rashleigh Jackson both expressed the desire for an early visit to Caracas and Georgetown by Diego Cordovez, the UN Secretary-General's special envoy, the statement added. In keeping with the 1966 Geneva agreement, the UN Secretary-General has been entrusted with selecting a suitable means of settlement to the controversy. Cordovez had discussions with both governments in August 1983. He is due to pay a second visit to both capitals for further discussions on the matter.

The Venezuelan Foreign Minister said there could be "no magic or instant solution to the controversy which is a complex issue". He reiterated Venezuela's "political will" to live in peace and co-operation with Guyana.

Foreign Minister Jackson has accepted an invitation from Morales to pay an official visit to Caracas at "a mutually convenient time."

On the Central American situation, Morales said the problems of this region had "a deep historical origin, based on social injustice (and) violation of the political rights of the people." He contended that the east-west conflict had impacted on the Central American problem.

The efforts of the Contadora group, he noted, had provided "a political and philosophical framework" within which Central American nations could exchange views. But he stressed that the Central American nations themselves, need to show "the sincerity of their political will" to resolve issues of conflict."

Areas of Cooperation

Georgetown SUNDAY CHRONICLE in English 10 Feb 85 pp 1, 8-9

[Text]

GUYANA is to ship 250 000 tons of bauxite to Venezuela later this year and the two countries have also agreed to undertake a detailed study of the transport and technical needs of Guyana's dredging operations.

The primary purpose of the exercise is to ascertain whether certain rivers could be dredged, allowing for the passage of larger draft ships.

Venezuelan Foreign Minister, Isidro Morales Paul, made this and other announcements, yesterday, to members of the media at the National Film Centre.

Guyanese are also to receive scholarships on quality control and related subjects.

Reading from a press statement, compiled after three days of discussions on bilateral co-operation, the Venezuelan Minister also declared that the visit had been "highly successful."

He called it "the starting point of a new stage in relations" between Guyana and Venezuela.

The two countries have decided to begin an immediate programme on areas of mutual interest in the health sector. These include

the fight against malaria, and treatment on cancer, with Venezuela also agreeing to make available post-graduate courses in health sciences.

The 1974 cultural agreement between the neighbouring states is to be re-activated, allowing for the exchange of painters, sculptors and others in the artistic field. This is to be coupled with post-graduate and diploma programmes of study at institutions in Venezuela.

After careful examination of priority issues in agriculture, both sides decided that the agro-business area was vital and agreed on an exchange of information and staff, involving the pertinent agencies in the two countries.

Technical and scientific studies on marine fishing will begin shortly and will involve the exchange of information and documentation.

Representatives from this country have also been invited to Venezuela to study a draft agenda and a draft of possible future agreements in this sector.

The Foreign Minister considered the establishment of personal contacts the most important aspect of trade talks carried out among both public and private sector agencies.

And he announced his

country's intention to strengthen links between scientific and technical agencies in both countries.

All of these agreements resulted from talks between the two Ministers as well as sectoral discussions on a number of matters of bilateral interest to the two countries.

In a joint press statement the two top-ranking officials agreed that "progress on these matters would considerably strengthen the relations between Guyana and Venezuela."

They have also agreed to establish a mechanism for monitoring the implementation of agreed programmes.

Delegate's Assessment

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 19 Feb 85 p 1

[Text]

THE recent visit to Guyana by a Venezuelan delegation, headed by that country's Foreign Minister Isidro Morales Paul, can open perspectives which, if handled correctly and without false expectations, can be favourable to stable co-existence on more solid bases than at present.

This is the view of Oswaldo Alvarez Paz, a member of the delegation who said he believed the visit was an "important contact".

In a column, "Politics Today," published in the "El Nacional", the Venezuelan delegate observed: "The only certain thing between Guyana and Venezuela is that we shall be neighbours eternally. It is better to live straight, face to face with each other than to turn our backs indefinitely on each other, observing each other apprehensively."

And contending that the Guyana Government seemed to have taken special pains to make the stay of the

Venezuelan delegation pleasant, he said: "The attitude, the way in which things developed, the undoubtable frankness in the talks held, ratify this conviction."

He said the Venezuelan delegation noted a special effort being made "to begin a new stage," and added that, "in a word, a different era in relations is appearing."

"It will have to be followed closely. Something is happening," he added. (GNA)

UN Envoy's Visit

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 19 Feb 85 p 1

[Text] Special envoy for the United Nations Secretary-General, UN Under-Secretary-General, Diego Cordovez yesterday opened discussions with Foreign Affairs Minister Rashleigh Jackson the the Guyana-Venezuela territorial controversy.

His visit is part of ongoing efforts by the United Nations Secretary-General to determine a means of peaceful settlement to the Guyana-Venezuela territorial controversy arising out of Venezuela's contention that the 1899 Arbitral Award is null and void.

It is Cordovez's second visit here in connection with this matter, his first having been made in August 1983.

Cordovez who arrived in Guyana yesterday morning is accompanied by Raymond Sommereyns a senior political officer in the UN, and two other officials. He is scheduled to leave for Caracas, the Venezuelan capital, tomorrow, for similar discussions with the Venezuelan authorities. His visit is in keeping with the Geneva Agreement of 1966.

While here the UN envoy will pay courtesy calls on President Forbes Burnham, Prime Minister Desmond Hoyte and Vice-President and Attorney General, Dr. Mohammed Shahabuddeen.

He will continue discussions today with Cde. Jackson.

The UN party was met upon arrival at Timehri International Airport by Guyana's Permanent Representative to the United Nations Noel Sinclair, Guyana's Ambassador to Venezuela Cheryl Miles and Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Dennis Gouvêia.

At the end of his talks here on the last occasion, he said he was leaving Guyana with "a very clear impression of the feelings of the Guyanese people" on the Guyana-Venezuela territorial issue.

He had also explained then that the UN Secretariat was seeking to ensure that relations of Friendship and of co-operation are established between the two countries by finding "a definitive and durable solution" to the controversy.

Since then a lot has taken place in Guyana-Venezuela relations and there has been a change in government in Caracas, and meetings between the Foreign Ministers of the two countries.

On the first occasion Cordovez had visited Caracas before coming to Guyana.

CSO: 3298/513

GUYANA

U.S. REPORT ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN GUYANA 'PONTIFICATING'

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 22 Feb 85 p 4

[Editorial]

[Text]

The US State Department is required by US law to sit in judgement and pontificate on the internal affairs of countries around the world.

Thus, in keeping with the requirements of US law, every year the US State Department causes to be published for public consumption what they describe as "country reports on human rights practices". In these reports, they are often guilty of interfering in the internal affairs of independent, sovereign states.

Last year, we had cause to comment on the cunningly mischievous 1983 report they published about Guyana.

This year, a study of the just-released 1984 report on Guyana reveals that in compiling the document, the authors were equally cunning and mischievous.

Having distorted the truth about the Guyana revolution over the years, the authors of the 1984 report wished to be seen as being consistent. At the same time, however, they had to find some way to avoid making Guyana look "too good" in the eyes of the world, while not making themselves look too ridiculous.

Finding nothing which would qualify for condemnation in keeping with their own definition of human rights and human rights violations, they resorted to repeating, very cleverly, some of the distortions and balderdash contained in previous reports.

Under the caption "disappearance", they said "there were no politically motivated disappearances, clandestine detentions or abductions in 1984". The true significance of this statement is that by leaving it hanging in the air, the uninformed reader will very likely conclude that while none of these things took place in 1984, they must have been regular features in the past.

The same distorted effect is achieved from their statement: "no politically motivated killings occurred in 1984".

In addition, when attempting to lead the reader astray by exposing him to conclusions they know to be malicious and wrong, they resort to formulations such as "opponents of the government have charged [...]" or "opponents of the government complain that..." or "prompted some Indo Guyanese to conclude..."

There are other areas in which malicious intent manifests itself.

They contend that President Forbes Burnham and a small group of senior officials rule Guyana and that "in almost all matters, the President himself makes the final decision".

With the services of a not inconsiderable intelligence network at their disposal, they must be aware of the great depth of people's involvement in the decision-making process in this country. The PNC, we believe, surely does not mobilise the people and conduct its General Council meetings and biennial congresses because of some unfounded belief in staging puppy shows.

Perhaps, the US State Department could explain who makes the "final decisions" in Washington.

Then there is their solicitude for the criminal elements, some of whom have been shot -- and in some cases shot and killed -- in armed confrontations with the Police. Based upon reports from the USA about Police treatment of criminal and non-criminal elements, we cannot accept the brutal image they seek to paint of the Guyana Police Service.

Only recently we heard, with interest, about an ailing 300-pound woman partially crippled with arthritis, who was shot and killed by the US Police who contended that she was shot when she rushed at them with a weapon.

The authors of the report also sought to give the impression that Guyana is exploiting "child labour". They contended that "the government's emphasis on agriculture in schools has led to small children doing physical labour in school agriculture plots".

In the same way, we all know that that represents a careless handling of the truth, we also know that child and slave labour played key roles in the building of the US society.

Guyana makes no apology for its enlightened approach to agricultural development, the importance of which the US State Department is fully conscious and the pursuit of which the US Administration has consistently sought to hinder by blocking loans from multilateral lending institutions intended to promote Guyana's agricultural development.

It is true that the 1984 country report had a few positive things to say about Guyana, even though much of it was said somewhat grudgingly. For example, the authors noted that "despite insinuations by the opposition about the independence of the judiciary, less partisan lawyers regard the judiciary as fairly independent," and "despite complaints that the government discriminates against non-supporters of the ruling party, social services and employment in public sector appear to be open to all in a non-discriminatory fashion."

On another occasion, we shall comment on a few other aspects -- especially on what they had to say about the media in Guyana.

For the moment, however, we firmly believe that the US State Department should spend less of its time pontificating on things Guyanese and sitting in judgement over Guyana's internal affairs. Rather, the Department could better spend its time addressing issues such as the growing population of blacks in the USA who are daily being told they are over-qualified for certain jobs, the racism and racial discrimination still institutionalised in the American society, and the cases of slavery one still reads about in the US society.

GUYANA

GOVERNMENT CONFISCATES MORE LOCAL HUMAN RIGHTS MATERIAL

Georgetown CATHOLIC STANDARD in English 17 Mar 85 p 1

[Text]

GOVERNMENT has once again seized literature coming into the country consigned to the Guyana Human Rights Association (GHRA).

This time 25 copies of Comment on Guyana, published by the Catholic Institute for International Relations in London were seized by Customs officials at the Georgetown Post Office on the grounds of it being 'anti-government'.

The Comment series, about 50 in number, include Apartheid and Sport, The IMF, The Lomé Convention, and in its Country issues, The Future of Hong Kong, the Philippines and Guatemala.

The parcel was opened by Customs on its arrival prior to the Advice Notice being sent to the GHRA.

The Advice Notice in fact stated that the parcel had arrived and been seized by Customs.

The GHRA has issued a press release, protesting this second seizure within twelve months.

The previous seizure was of copies of The Fraudulent Revolution published by Latin American Bureau.

At the time GHRA lawyers were unable to obtain from Customs a satisfactory explanation for their action.

GHRA comments, "It appears that any independent analysis of the current situation in Guyana is unacceptable to the government, thereby extending to external publications the hostility which it routinely directs against independent domestic publications.

"Restrictions on the sale of paper and newsprint", GHRA continues, "are such that it is not an exaggeration to affirm that no opinion other than that of the government is tolerated.

"With the increasing restrictions on imported literature the violation of the right to freedom of expression and the right to information has reached new and intolerable levels.

CSO: 3298/514

GUYANA

PNC TEAM IN PARTY-TO-PARTY TALKS WITH AREA NATIONS

Georgetown NEW NATION in English 24 Feb 85 pp 8, 4

[Text]

Attempts by imperialism to thwart the establishment of progressive regimes within the region and the increased tension in Central America were among major areas of discussion when a six-member delegation from the People's National Congress engaged recently in Party-to-Party talks with their counterparts in Cuba, Nicaragua, Mexico and the Dominica Republic.

The PNC delegation, headed by member of the PNC Central Executive Committee and Chief Political Adviser to the President, Cde Elvin McDavid, included Deputy Head of the Department of National Orientation and International Relations, Cde Colin Heywood; Regional Chairman of Region Six, Cde Surujnarine Singh; YSM Executive member, Cde Michael Scott; Member of Parliament, Cde Bissoondal Beniprashad; and Second Secretary in Guyana's Embassy in Havana, Cde Raj Mongul.

The delegation conducted bilateral discussions with the leadership of the main political Party in each country, with the leadership of the youth and women's movements and with the trade union movement.

During the Party-to-Party talks, discussions centred on possible areas of bilateral co-operation, the

development of increased political co-operation, the situation in Latin and Central America and the Caribbean, the global economic situation and the imperialist machinations in the region.

In Cuba, the delegation held talks with its counterparts led by Cde Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, member of the Politburo of the Communist Party of Cuba, Vice President of the State Council and Vice President of the Council of Ministers.

Cde McDavid and the delegation also met with the Guyanese students in Havana to bring them up-to-date with developments at home.

In Nicaragua the delegation met with a team from the National Directorate of the Sandinista Front for National Liberation (FSLN) headed by Cde Bayardo Arce, Political Coordinator of the National Directorate.

The delegation also met with the various agencies responsible for fisheries, commerce and foreign trade.

Teams from Nicaragua are now expected in Guyana in the near future to initiate aspects of the agreement signed during the recent meeting.

A number of Party-to-Party agreements were also concluded during the visit.

When the team visited the

Dominican Republic, the leader of that country's delegation for the talks was Leader of the Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD) of the Dominican Republic Mr Pena Gomez. Included in that delegation, also, were Secretary of the Department of International Relations, Abraham Bautista, two Members of Parliament and other leaders of the Party.

The discussions centred on developments in the respective countries, the steps taken to develop a socialist society in Guyana and the relationship with the International Monetary Fund.

And as was the case during each leg of the visit, an invitation was extended to Mr Pena Gomez and his Party to attend the forthcoming Sixth Biennial Congress of the People's National Congress.

When the delegation visited Mexico, discussions dealt with intensification of co-operation between the PNC and the International Revolutionary Party, the political organisation currently in power there.

Leader of the Mexican delegation was Hernandez Hadaad, Senator and Secretary of International Relations of the International Revolutionary Party (PRI) of Mexico.

Meetings were also held with mass organisations in Mexico.

The Guyana delegation also met with Adolfo Rosanzweig Diaz who was performing the duties of Foreign Minister, to discuss matters of mutual interest on issues of regional concern.

The delegation returned recently.

CSO: 3298/514

GUYANA

JAGAN EXPLAINS DIFFERENCES BETWEEN PPP, PNC

Georgetown MIRROR in English 10 Feb 85 p 3

[Cheddi Jagan column "Straight Talk": "PPP-PNC Not the Same"]

[Text] Propaganda is one thing. Real life is another. The propagandists never tire in making propaganda that the PPP and the NPC are the same. But real life is proving different.

At a public meeting in Toronto, one of our detractors at question time blurted: "why tell us about the bad things the PNC is doing; the PPP and the PNC are the same; both are socialists."

I recognised the fellow from the time of the CIA-fomented and financed strikes and strife of the early 1960s. I hit back: "How come the PPP and the PNC are the same now. Remember you were one of those who used to say the PPP and Jagan are communists and the PNC and Burnham are socialists, and Burnham and the PNC were the lesser of the two evils". The crowd booed him down.

Plain Lies

The propaganda that the PPP and the PNC are the same first surfaced in a big way in 1972 by ASCRIA and IPRA (Indian Political Revolutionary Associates). The line put out was: PPP and PNC were racial blocs and both must be destroyed--ASCRIA would tackle the PNC, and IPRA would liquidate the PPP.

The same line re-appeared later in 1974. This time it was WPA's Dr. Clive Thomas in an article on Guyana in the American magazine Monthly Review. The editor asked me for a comment. My reply was: if the PPP and the PNC were identical, how come the Anglo American imperialists had the CIA destabilised the PPP government and put the PNC in power in December 1964?

Other anti-PPP political forces have taken up the old tune. These include the Vanguard for Liberation and Democracy (VLD), Paul Tennessee's Democratic Labour Movement and the Conservative Party of Guyana.

Differences

the PPP is different from the PNC in politics, economies, ideology and culture. This difference became very evident during the last 2 years on several vital issues.

The PPP was opposed to the Labour Amendment Act, which violated the rule of law, and the right to collective bargaining.

At the TUC Annual Delegates Conference in September 1984, the PPP supported the 6-union proposal of a TUC Executive Committee with equal members on each side--the PNC controlled unions and the non-PNC-controlled unions--with an independent agreed President. The PNC rejected the proposal.

Monetary

In 1978, the PPP opposed an agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The PNC praised the IMF, citing for us justification the fact that certain socialist countries had entered into agreements with the Fund.

Since 1982, the PPP has been calling for a break with the IMF. Instead of doing so, the PNC is step by step implementing many of the anti working class measures of the Fund. The Minister of Finance disclosed that 28 per cent of our foreign exchange earnings had been paid to the IMF in 1984, even though that foreign exchange was urgently needed for the importation of food, clothing, building materials, raw materials, spare parts and equipment.

Congress

The essential differences between the PPP and the PNC had been set out from time to time. These were set out at the PPP's 21st Congress in 1982. Delivering the Central Committee Report to the Congress, I said:

"At our 1972 Congress, after the rigged 1968 elections we set out an 11-point anti-imperialist programme. In 1974, after the army seizure of the ballot boxes at the 1973 elections, our Party's 18th Congress put out a 16-point programme and called for a political solution.

In 1975-76, when our country was faced with imperialist threats, we again in talks with PNC proposed a political solution. And at Enmore Martyrs' Day Commemorations at Enmore on June 16, 1976 we called in the presence of the then Prime Minister for the implementation of a 17-point programme of action.

In 1978, we objected to the agreement with the International Monetary Fund. As we warned then, the situation definitely worsened.

What we said in the late 1970s is even more relevant today. We had then said that without a political solution, there could be no solution to the economic and social crisis. A solution is vital. Come what may, we will get it." In this year the fight must be intensified for money, food, jobs, free and fair elections and a political solution. The PPP sees them all inter-linked and inter-acting.

GUYANA

PPP PARLIAMENTARIAN OUTLINES PATH TO NATIONAL GREATNESS

Georgetown MIRROR in English 10 Feb 85 p 3

[Text]

The return to democratic (majority) rule in Guyana would speedily put the economy along the road to economic recovery and restore a happy living to all Guyanese.

This was the essential point which the PPP Parliamentarians articulated during the General Debate on the 1985 State Budget. In fact, Party Leader and former Premier Cheddi Jagan insisted that there can be no political solution of the crisis without a democratic formula to respect the people's organisations.

Making this point most forcefully was the PPP's Chief Whip and Parliamentary spokesman on Agriculture Reepu Daman Persaud, who dialectically linked democracy to production.

"The basic complaint in this country," he said, "is the subversion and almost liquidation of the democratic process. Election

in this country is a joke and an international scandal."

The veteran M.P. of some 20 years' standing stressed the link between democracy and production in these words: "The right to choose a government is the basis for development... There must be a speedy return to the democratic road."

Persaud recalled that under the democratic rule of the PPP the production base was sound, but the PNC on assuming office dismantled that foundation. The PNC regime placed emphasis on non-productive sectors such as roads, squandering millions on the Mahdia, Upper Potaro, Mazaruni and Orealla roads, which never materialised.

Agriculture and agro-industrial development were neglected, resulting now in the shortage of basic food items. The pioneering work of the PPP in places such as Black Bush Polder, Garden of Eden and Mara was not matched by the PNC, the PPP Assembly-

man stated.

This has contributed to the production collapse which in turn is forcing the regime to resort to taxation in order to raise revenue. In this regard, he added, the 1985 Budget is a deception. "The Budget Speech gives the impression that only a few areas were taxed but when one looks at the Bills tabled, taxation is both harsh and severe."

Saying this, he condemned the imposition of the "sticker" tax on hire cars, and the raising of fees for motor licences. The regime, however, approved a \$25 monthly sticker tax, unmindful that this tax will surely be passed on to the working people.

The PPP Assemblyman, overwhelmed with patriotic fervour, told Parliament that "this country is not without hope".

Notwithstanding the mismanagement of the PNC, with a return to democracy and the involvement of people, Guyana can be built into a great country.

CSO: 3298/514

GUYANA

TEXT OF BURNHAM'S 16TH ANNIVERSARY RALLY SPEECH

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 23 Feb 85 pp 1, 4-5, 8-9

[Text]

"WE CAME through the storm a little wet and battered, but in one place and stronger than before."

That was how President Forbes Burnham last night summed up our experiences in the face of much hostility over the last year. He was addressing a mammoth rally at the Square of the Revolution, ushering in the 16th year of the Co-operative Republic.

"We applied our resourcefulness, initiative, imagination and wit, and also our will to our resources and for the first time since 1980, we registered real growth in 1984, the Year of Resourcefulness," Cde Burnham told the large gathering which included Sir Gerald Cash, Governor-General of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas.

He noted, however, that while there are clear signs and indications that our economy has begun to turn around, "we are but at the beginning of the road — a road strewn with not pebbles, but boulders."

In his 40-minute address, broadcast live to the nation, Cde. Burnham also spoke about the difficulties experienced by small countries

like Guyana which seek to be truly independent, about concerted attempts to subvert and destabilise our country and about a "Game Plan" aimed at "snuffing out our revolution".

He spoke also about the need for energy conservation, about the need for the enthusiasm and dedication evidenced in recent times to become the norm, about Guyana's intention to honour all its just debts.

And, noting that the subversives have been active in the industrial relations field, Cde. Burnham added: "Comrades, this is a matter of life and death. This is a question of survival. You cannot sit idly by and permit the workers' substantial gains to be lost. You cannot fiddle while fire is being set at the very foundations of our economic, social, and political edifice."

Here is the text of the President's address:

HAPPY MASHRAMANI,

This evening, for the first time, we meet here at the foot of the 1763 Monument, in what shall henceforth be known as the Square of the Revolution, to witness the symbolic raising of the Golden Arrowhead and to mark the fifteenth anniversary of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana. At the same time, we mark the two hundred and twenty second year since the first significant blow was struck

for the freedom of our people, and our country.

Two hundred and three years were to pass before we achieved formal political independence, and even today, we still continue to struggle to achieve full economic independence.

A monograph has been produced by the late Vere T. Daly on the 1763 Revolution, and the works and death of Cuffy our first national hero, betrayed by his colleagues, mocked by his former adulators, his lieutenants butchered to death by the "civilised" Dutch enemies for daring like him to be a human, for seeking to bring freedom to his people and to establish a state for ex-slaves. A full historical work has now been commissioned—a work which we hope will both educate and inspire us.

To the casual observer, Cuffy failed, because he was defeated in battle and the institution of chattel slavery remained apparently triumphant for another seventy-one years. Cuffy did fail in narrow physical terms, as I observed on Sunday 23rd May, 1976, when I unveiled this monument within the shadow of which I now stand. But we, the children of his sacrifice and the heirs of his pains, have been infected and affected by his spirit, his courage and his dreams.

He showed an understanding of some of the economic realities, and

therefore of the need for trade between his own newly established state, and that overlorded by Van Hoogenheim. For that he was criticised by his near-sighted colleagues and untrusting followers. He recognised that his administration was under threat, and sought dialogue as one of the means of buying time. For this he was deemed weak, and a sell out, by the unsubtle and mentally opaque within his ranks. He saw clearly that independence had to be supported by maximum production, but was accused of harshness and dictatorship by those who identified freedom with the right to idle, and ape the social habits of the former masters. For them the good life was epitomized by the absence of productive work, the wearing of uncomfortable European dress and fancies, and merely living it up, taking no care of the morrow. These were they who could not rise to a national perception, but like real slaves equated their personal pleasures and ephemeral comforts with the national good. Their lineal descendants today, consort with the enemy, accept the crumbs from the latter's table, then migrate and plan assassination.

Cuffy had no illusions about the difficulties that had to be overcome, but many of his people weakened, and even crumbled, under pressure, looking back with nostalgia at the calm unruffled and dependent existence, nay subsistence, that was slavery. **Mutatis mutandis** how many of them are there not amongst us today using more sophisticated rationalisings to garnish their servile attitudes and longings?

The Revolutionary Leader was further faced with internecine struggle as between the various ethnic and tribal groups that constituted his forces. The enemy took full advantage of this situation, and unity was weakened. They fought each other instead of the enemy at the ramparts.

Meanwhile the slave owners, the Governors of the

various colonies and other representatives of imperialism were united in their perception and determination. While Van Hoogenheim assumed the mask of humanitarian reasonableness, his brother Governors of the other Dutch colonies of Demerara, Essequibo and St. Eustatius, were adopting the harshest measures to keep their slaves in their "proper" place while mobilising to send armed forces in support. Demerara and Essequibo sent Amerindian irregulars, and St. Eustatius sent regulars. Most noteworthy of all, however, was the fact that Barbados, a British colony, sent regular troops to strengthen the Dutch colony's defences in Demerara.

There you have it. The imperialists, regardless of nationality united to crush the Revolution, for they perceived it to be a potential threat to their system. Britain and Holland who fought each other for the right to rape Africa for slaves; Britain and Holland who fought each other, and were to continue fighting each other, to own the slave colonies in the Caribbean and on the mainland, forgot their animosities, and combined their forces to protect the imperialist slave owning system, while the ex-slaves argued and fought between themselves over ethnic and tribal superiority. The result?...It is written bold in history, a lesson to learn, a lesson to ponder.

Is there more fitting a place or square to mark the anniversary of our Republic than this, the Square of the Revolution dominated by this massive eighteen foot monument raised to the memory, of the 1763 Revolution, and of the deeds, achievements, courage and spirit of Cuffy, but alas also, by implication and inference, of the need to remove from our midst, the idle, the lazy, and the treacherous agents of the enemies of our Revolution?

Last week Saturday, as I

saw thousands upon thousands of workers pass through this Square in the annual Workers' Parade, and the multitude that stood to cheer and admire, I sat and I wondered, I looked and I was thrilled. It was undoubtedly the largest, most representative and enthusiastic parade ever witnessed in the history of this country, the green land of Guyana. It was a sight to gladden and old man's heart. There lay our strength, there lies our power. If we marshal it, if we deploy it intelligently in the national cause, we can scale any height, climb any mountain and neither principalities nor powers can or shall ever prevail against us. To the organisers I offer congratulations, but to the participants, I proffer even greater congratulations and thanks.

Commendation is due in full measure also to the comrades, of every category and skill, who within a few weeks transformed this site from what it was, into a worthy Square of the Revolution. They all laboured for many an hour by day and by night, overcoming many difficulties, and solving many problems, to present to the nation this example of fine workmanship and meaningful dedication. To them all, on your and my own behalf I say "Thank you".

This type of performance is being witnessed oftener, especially since 1984, the Year of Resourcefulness. Our backs were to the wall. The price of sugar denominated in a weak and weakening pound, reached its lowest level in decades. The bauxite market was far from attractive. In Jamaica, for instance, Reynolds pulled out with a concomitant loss of several hundreds of jobs for Jamaicans. The IMF was insisting that we accept a programme which would have brought greater hardships, without offering the means or the spares to keep industry, public and private, going. Loans issuing from the Inter-American Development Bank and the EEC were opposed,

albeit unsuccessfully. In the former case the loans eventually cost us more. Foreigners sought to subvert the bauxite workers, some of the hirelings among whom, to earn their pieces of silver, harked back in the tradition of some of Cuffy's ex-slaves to the "good old days of Alcan and Demba." Meanwhile we were offered a proposal which was aimed at taking completely out of our hands, the control of the bauxite industry.

The vultures foregathered. There were the prophecies, and then the rumours, of a violent overthrow of our government. A group of misguided miscreants penned a paid advertisement in the Washington Times, which incidentally is owned by the head of the Reunification Church, calling upon the US President to intervene in the heartland of Guyana to save the country, the continent and perhaps the world from communism and for democracy! How puerile can they get? One person claiming to be a friend, spoke to me on the telephone enquiring whether I had in fact been killed. I posed him a counter enquiry as to whether he imagined that he was speaking to a ghost.

In the face of all this hostility, and in spite of these satanic machinations, we came through the storm, a little wet and battered, but in one piece and stronger than before. We applied our resourcefulness, initiative, imagination, wit and will, to our resources and for the first time since 1980 registered real economic growth. Our rice export earnings increased by over twenty-six per cent as against those of 1983, bauxite sales revenues appreciated by seventy-three per cent and we exported fifty per cent more, in value, of sugar by-products. Three new major industries based on our natural resources came on stream, and the officially reported gold production moved up by one hundred and twenty per cent approximately.

The signs are there, the indications are clear, that the economy has begun to turn around but only just. There is occasion for pride and confidence, but not for complacency. We are but at the beginning of the road—a road strewn with, not pebbles, but boulders. Though the entire product of the Glassworks, as well as that of two other streams to be introduced this year, has a guaranteed market, the full backward integration of that industry is still to be achieved, and what is more, the quantity and quality of production have to be ensured.

Though Sanata Textiles Ltd., in 1985 has enough raw cotton to keep its plant running, and to expand its production, and increase its range of products, our cotton fields must yield more than in the past, if we are to satisfy our domestic needs, and our export markets. We have secured new markets for our bauxite, but output must be augmented to meet traditional and new market needs, and yet to provide the notional currency for the counter trade arrangements, which are there for the asking.

This year should witness many of the planned enterprises coming into operation. They will offer new employment opportunities, and make for economic growth. You may wonder how all this is possible in the context of a confused and somewhat depressed international economic situation. In the first place we shall be producing food which is in short supply in the world. Second, ours will be products which are generally in demand. Third, since ours is a relatively small economy our potential for survival and prosperity is great, provided we plan carefully and realistically, and produce efficiently, relevantly, and competitively.

But every new undertaking incurs additional expenditure on power, and in our present circumstances therefore on petroleum based fuel. The

latter is still costly to us and in turn premises the outlay of foreign exchange. We shall therefore have not only to be efficient and careful in our use of power, but also to exploit to the full, alternative sources of energy. This explains the emphasis on the Eclipse Falls, Kontumari and Wanukaru hydro power complexes, on the use of wood, rice and sugar cane wastes for energy and power, and on the erection of biogas facilities throughout the country.

Last year we devoted forty-five per cent of our foreign earnings to the repayment of loans and other indebtedness especially to the IMF. That was difficult, and sometimes stressful, but had to be done in all the prevailing circumstances. We have every intention of paying all our just debts. We must pay our way in the world.

Incidentally, by far the greater part of our national debt is attributable to capital investment mainly on infrastructure. It will be our duty to ensure that the undertakings and enterprises which benefit from such investment, by careful and competent management, yield the returns in sufficient quantum, to amortise the attendant debts over a reasonable period, and create surpluses for further investment.

All this would not be unduly difficult if the enthusiasm and dedication evidenced in recent times, were to become the norm, and they can become the norm, and we were left alone to pursue our developmental objectives. Unfortunately, however, there have been concerted attempts to subvert and destabilise our country, because we insist on being truly independent, and because we have chosen the non-capitalist route to development of our country for our people's benefit.

A dear little woman, Virginia Prewett, with a greater feel for imagination and mendacity, than for the truth, has in the Reunification newspaper, the Washington

Times published her "discovery" of multiple airstrips in our hinterland, prepared for nesting Soviet Backfire planes. She reports that "nearly 10 000 men with an air squadron and tanks have been sent to Brazil's Guyanese border and identifies the presence of 15 000 Cuban soldier workers in Guyana." With equal "accuracy", she writes about an outbreak of beri-beri in our country and significantly prophesises that the anti-communist opposition will "question Burnham at least clandestinely".

In ordinary circumstances these "discoveries" may evoke amusement, and probably qualify this modern-day Columbus for some one of those awards, made annually to writers of fiction. But it discloses a game plan worthy of Fischer or Karpov, and is aimed at snuffing out our Revolution. And those Guyanese who supply this type of misinformation, are anti-national in their behaviour, and ought to be rooted out and ostracised, to say the very least.

At the same time these subversives, local and foreign, have been active in the industrial relations field, seeking as they did at Linden and Kwakwani in 1983 to foment unrest. Comrades, this is a matter of life and death. This is a question of survival. You cannot sit idly by, and permit the workers' substantial gains to be lost, you cannot fiddle, while fire is being set at the very foundations of our economic, social and political edifice. Nor can your government. Let the Akaras of our time take note!

Since last Mashramani, our foreign policy has followed the course set in 1966. Our insistence on our own independence and freedom of action, is reflected in our firm commitment to non-interference, under any guise whatsoever, in the internal affairs of sovereign states. Non-Alignment continues to be one of the main planks of our policy. At the same time we have not flinched from our support, without compromise, of African Liberation and the

Palestinian cause. We have supported the Contadora proposal for a solution of the Central American problem. Our principled position on full equality for women has contributed to our representative being unanimously elected to the high office of Chairman of the UN Committee for the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, in this the final year of the Decade for Women. Congratulations to Cde Justice Desires Bernard and to the Women's Revolutionary Socialist Movement!

We have added our voice to those who support peace, an end to the production and deployment of nuclear weapons, and above all, disarmament. There seems some hope that the world's majority who want peace and prefer development rather than war, may have their way.

You will of course have noted that our foreign and domestic policies are but two facets of the same coin, the former being directed at helping to create a world, where the objectives of the latter can be more readily pursued. It has not always been easy, for every major power has a tendency to see the world in terms of its own perceived interests, and to assume that the least a small nation can do, is to allow itself to be dragged into the voting lobby by its would be patron or benefactor. Very often, the major power is arrogant enough to state that one question or another is a gut issue for it, and to assume that the small nation must do its duty and without question accept the former's instructions or "suggestions".

This, to us, is not democracy, it is not independence. Small nations like Guyana, too have interests, and gut issues. Small nations like Guyana, too have perceptions. Small nations like Guyana, too have the ability to think. Small nations like Guyana too want to be independent especially after centuries of colonial rule and domination. Persuasion is one thing, dictation is another.

Comrades, it is significant that the last year of the Decade of Women coincides with the International Youth Year. For in the past we have tended to neglect much of the potential of our women and youth. We have, with undoubted success sought in recent years to correct the default with respect to women, and to that extent our society and economy has benefited. Any country which fails to involve so substantial a section of its citizenry as its womenfolk, is the loser, any country which discriminates against its women, discriminates against itself and inhibits its own development and progress. Our record in this field is undoubtedly good and has been internationally acknowledged.

So far as our Youth are concerned we have over the years continually increased expenditure on training and education for our young people. In the 1985 National Budget in Training and Education alone the increase has been of the order of twenty-four per cent. The People's National Congress has a vibrant youth arm—the Young Socialist Movement—which has been involved at a national level in political activities and economic planning, and the Party and the Government have placed great emphasis on international youth exchanges, and local events like those associated with Youth Week. At the same time, the multi-million dollar President's College which should be opening its doors on the first of August is intended to prepare our Youth and

therefore our Nation, to meet the challenges of the twenty-first century with confidence.

But all this said, have we fully mobilised or mobilised to the maximum and optimum the Youth of Guyana? Is our approach, part of an integrated national programme? Do we still smugly refer to the "youth problem" not appreciating that it is part of the national problem? Do we realise that there is no youth problem as such, but that the Youth tend to react positively or negatively to certain current attitudes, inconsistencies, and hypocrisies? It is about time that we enter into dialogue with over sixty per cent of our society and population combining experience with the energy of those who have the biggest stake in the future. We the non-youths will discover that we do not know it all. Let us use the International Youth Year to plan a relevant, coherent and consistent programme for Guyana.

Let us in this the Year of Youthfulness learn from the Youth while we give the Youth the benefit of our mature experience. Let us make Youth not a matter of mere chronology but more of matter of outlook.

Long live the Youth of Guyana!

Long live the Youth of the world!

Long live the brave new world!

Long live the Guyana Revolution!

Long live Socialism!

Long live the People's National Congress!

Long live the Co-operative Republic of Guyana!

GUYANA

BURNHAM HAILED FOR QUALITIES OF LEADERSHIP

Georgetown NEW NATION in English 17 Mar 85 p 2

[Article by Desmond Francis]

[Text]

Some men are born with leadership qualities as is the case with our Leader and President, Cde Forbes Burnham. There are others who merely achieve greatness and leadership status.

Since the days of slavery, leaders had been rising among Guyanese, making demands for independence. Some of them who embarrassed the imperial government were Cuffy our own National Hero, Quamina, Akara and Damon. They all wanted "Freedom".

It was on February 23, 1763, Cuffy with other slaves carried out the Berbice Slave Rebellion. They were successful. But because of differences of opinion and internal wrangling that revolution suffered a setback.

What happened 222 years ago is now history for us. But then we have seen a similar situation in modern times, the Grenada Revolution and the subsequent invasion.

We are hearing and reading of so many

disgusting and perturbing things that are taking place the world over, and when we consider how happy we are, we have to count our blessings for what we have acquired.

The real task remains to be done, and that is to completely transform this beautiful Co-operative Republic into a truly socialist state.

We still have a few hurdles to clear, some of which are to get the people to understand that we must eat what we produce, wear what we manufacture, produce more, stamp out smuggling, and black-marketing, and stop the exploitation of man by man.

These I do hope we will be able to overcome a short while, and the least we could do to our Leader Cde. Forbes Burnham, is to let him live to see that coming February 23, 1990, Guyana will be a full-fledged socialist state.

Cde. Burnham spent the better part of his life struggling for in-

dependence for Guyana. When he became Prime Minister in 1964 and was negotiating for Guyana to be independent he had to overcome many hurdles, but he eventually triumphed those obstacles.

Our Leader recognising that Cuffy struck the first blow on February 23, 1763 for total emancipation had wanted February 23, 1966 to be Independence Day. May 26 was a compromise date because the United Force wanted August.

Guyana's economic and political revolution has been so spectacular that four years later, with the People's National Congress, the status of Guyana changed to a Republic.

On Saturday, Guyana will be celebrating 15 years of Republican status, and when one looks back at the many achievements we have accomplished, none can resist saying, "Well done Forbes, for had it not been for you we would have still been a colony to be trampled one."

GUYANA

LEADER'S NEW TERM, 'COASTALITIS,' HITS COLONIAL LEGACY

Georgetown NEW NATION in English 17 Mar 85 p 2

[Article by P. H. Daly]

[Text]

Only the creative Leader of the People's National Congress and President Cde Linden Forbes Sampson Burnham could have coined the word "Coastalitis."

The word "Coastalitis" was coined at the last General Council meeting of the PNC and described the traditional attitude of the Guyanese people in living exclusively on the coastland, tentifiably Georgetown, and ignoring the vast interior of the country where the natural resources lie.

This tradition of living exclusively on the coastland is a sinister heritage left us by colonialism. It has both historical and psychological background and implications.

Historically it is a relic of the age when the expatriate intruders and occupiers of the country themselves lived exclusively in what they decoratively renamed the "Garden City." This locale was the rendezvous where they preened themselves and lazed in comfort attended, successively, by their slaves and servants.

This is the historical origin of the development of the gravitational pull of the coastland on the people.

But the pull has psychological implications too. Since it was deliberately developed by the expatriates when they used Georgetown as an amusement park and their pleasure ground for sadism, the existence of the pull over Guyanese today

shows that it is a psychological disease, that is a malady of the behavioural process which needs conscious resistance.

Since it is a psychological malady, "Coastalitis", the name given it by President Burnham, has the appropriate ring and connotations of medical terminology.

One could be a great politician, a great president but one seldom finds the gift of artistic creativity alongside political and presidential greatness. But there they are all together now in that coinage coastalitis.

Reports of the President's address quote him as saying that unless we overcome the problem of coastalitis, efforts at development are doomed to fail. The President was referring to the government's regionalisation programme for development and the role which people have to play, the challenge to the people is to get to the regions and develop them.

He explained that regionalism is based upon the perception that progress would be achieved more readily through the greater involvement of people in their respective communities because the people are knowledgeable about the condition and resources in their communities.

GUYANA

PARTY ORGAN RECOUNTS BENEFITS OF REGIONALISM

Georgetown NEW NATION in English 10 Mar 85 p 1

[Article by Adam Harris]

[Text]

Guyana, a country of 216 square-kilometres and a population scattered across its area, is now putting in place mechanisms for the effective monitoring and control of the various development activities.

Historically, Guyana was administered from Georgetown, creating a situation in which administrators could not understand problems encountered in the outlying areas, nor could they plan for effective development in these areas.

Rather than promoting a system in which the people were involved in the development process the administration at that time decided what the people wanted. The result was all too often projects conceived with good intentions were, for the greater part, meaningless to the people for whom they were intended.

The records are full of cases in which projects

were undertaken and on completion, left unused. Bridges were constructed where they served no purpose; schools were built where they were of little or no use to the community; and lands were identified for agriculture in areas where there was no drainage or irrigation.

In the light of these experiences, the People's National Congress Government initiated and implemented a system of regionalism. This system sought to place in outlying areas the instruments for effective management of the development process.

Each administrative centre is responsible for ensuring the development of needed social amenities, solving problems that may arise from time to time in the region, guiding the people along the road to maximum production of those things the region is capable of producing and mobilising the best skills

for placement in relevant areas.

Because of the system of regionalism, the entire population is exposed to adequate medical facilities, proper schooling, facilities to get farm produce to markets, and the means of communicating with the decision-makers.

More recently, Central Government continued the programme of decentralisation by placing in the hands of the regional administration the responsibility for those officers working in the region but whose headquarters are in Georgetown.

It was observed that control of regional officers from the centre was almost impossible. Under that old system there were officers who, left to their own devices, produce the barest minimum.

The policy decision is that the Regional Chairman, the official in the best position to monitor the performance of officers in the regions, must

evaluate and supervise the performance of these officers.

The decision has also been taken to have the best skills deployed to the regions for the most effective development. To accommodate the transfer of these skills, the regional administration has been entrusted with the responsibility of providing suitable accommodation for persons assigned to the region.

Leader of the People's National Congress and President, Cde Forbes Burnham in his address to the Third Sitting of the First Supreme Congress of the People, said that if there is to be meaningful development, people must be prepared to remove from the coast and to go where development is taking place.

Agricultural expansion, explorations for minerals, the new industries and major works are all being conducted in the regions, away from the centre, Cde Burnham said.

GUYANA

ACTIVITIES, DEVELOPMENTS IN VARIOUS REGIONS REPORTED

Region 4 Capital Projects

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 13 Feb 85 p 5

[Text]

EAST Demerara: -- [GNA] -
- The Regional Administration of the Demerara/ Mahaika Region will spend approximately \$21 million this year on capital and current works.

This disclosure was made on Sunday by the Regional Chairman, Cde Ivan Remington, in a radio broadcast over the Guyana Broadcasting Corporation on the programme entitled "Regional Chairman's report."

Cde. Remington said that six million dollars will be spent on capital works which will include the extension of the Administrative Office to accommodate the transfer of more officers to the Region.

Works will also continue on the Hope deviation road and the Mon Repos access road on the East Coast, Demerara. Other roads to be upgraded include the Cane Grove Carriageway, the access roads to Hope Estate and Vryheid's

Lust, also on the East Coast, and the two-mile carriageway at Madewini on the East Bank Demerara.

He said work is in progress on the re-alignment and bridge extension at Grove- Good Success on the East Bank of Demerara. The existing concrete bridge will be extended using both timber and concrete.

Dealing with current expenditure, Cde. Remington said that his administration intends to spend some \$15 million. From this amount, four million dollars will be for employment costs, the remaining \$11 million will take care of other charges which include \$800 000 for the maintenance of 400 Government buildings. An additional \$2,3 million will be spent on roads, drainage and irrigation trenches and other infrastructural works.

"This year too, we will continue to place greater emphasis on the rehabilitation of our drainage and irrigation systems throughout the Region, so that more and more arable lands could be brought under cultivation," Cde. Remington said. [GNA]

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 18 Feb 85 p 5

[Text]

NEW Amsterdam : Berbice
[GNA] — The Regional Administration of Region Six will establish another District Agriculture Action Committee to help monitor the agriculture development programme in Berbice.

The committee was scheduled to be launched yesterday at Schepmoed School at Mara, East Bank Berbice, by the Regional Agriculture Sub-committee Chairman, Cde Winston Samuels.

Regional Agriculture Officer, Cde Hector Armogan explained Friday that the action committee will work in close collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and will assist to mobilise farmers and ensure that regional and national production targets are achieved.

In addition his unit, Cde Armogan said, will guide agricultural activities in the

area and ensure that all cultivable lands are put into productive use.

The move to set up agriculture action committees in Berbice was mooted at the last regional agriculture meeting held at Corriverton where members spoke about some of the benefits farmers would derive.

The first such committee was formed at Crabwood

Creek where former Agriculture Minister, Cde Sallahuddin described it as a good move to promote the interest of the farmers. This committee, with the help of the Regional Administration and the Inter-American Institute for Co-operation in Agriculture (IICA), supervised the \$250 000, Crabwood Creek agriculture rehabilitation programme.

Berbice Talks With CAIC

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 18 Feb 85 p 5

[Text]

NEW AMSTERDAM, Berbice: (GNA)—A senior member from the Berbice Chamber of Commerce and Development Association will travel to Barbados this week to discuss with the Caribbean Association of Industry and Commerce (CAIC), economic development plans for Guyana with special reference to Berbice.

Cde Ramdehol Bhookmohan, Senior Vice-President of the Chamber, has been mandated by the organisation to meet with members of the

CAIC—the umbrella organisation of the private sector in the region and to discuss, among other things, development plans for manufacturing and agricultural enterprises in Berbice.

The meeting with the CAIC is scheduled to take place between February 23 and 26.

The Chamber's representative is also expected to have dialogue with his counterpart on areas of trade and supplies of raw material and machinery.

Food Production in Region 1

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 22 Feb 85 p 1

[Article by Narmala Shewcharan]

[Text]

TWO hundred and fifty low income farmers in Region One will be able to substantially increase their earnings and to contribute to the Region's food self-sufficiency as a result of a loan agreement signed yesterday. The loan was granted by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB).

Grouped together as the Hosororo Co-operative Credit Union, the farmers are to benefit from a loan of \$330 000 (US) which was granted to the union.

The money will be used to develop land for and to generate agricultural production and to promote swine and poultry rearing.

Regional Chairman, Barrington Ward, who witnessed the signing in Georgetown, noted that the loan was a significant contribution toward development

and self-sufficiency in his Region. He spoke of the significant inputs of the credit union - formed in 1967 - and noted that the disbursement of the loan would further boost agriculture efforts in the Region.

Bank officials estimate that the loan can be used to generate a total annual income of nearly \$3 million among the 250 farmers.

A sum of \$265 000 (US) from the loan is to be used for agricultural production, involving the reclamation of some 1 500 acres of virgin land owned by the Government. These lands are to be leased to the farmers for 99 years for less than \$1 (US) per acre. Each farmer benefiting from the loan will be allotted five acres and it is estimated that with the cultivation of ground provisions and mixed crops, he will earn \$11 000 annually.

SWINE REARING

Production of swine and poultry will be done on a

group basis. A total of \$25 000 (US) will be used for the poultry industry and some 8 000 chickens are expected to be produced annually, estimated to net an income of \$44 000, IDB officials said.

Swine rearing, which will take up \$40 000 (US) of the loan, is estimated to yield 194 000 lbs of pork, and net an income of \$31 020 annually for the group.

The Credit Union is also benefiting from an IDB Technical Co-operation grant of \$72 000 (US).

The grant will be used mainly to strengthen the institutional structure of the union.

Yesterday's loan will assist farmers living mainly in the Mabarama, Matarkai and Moruka Districts.

The agreement between the IDB and the Union is for 40 years at a commission of one per cent per annum. Semi-annual repayments are to be made, the first after a 10½-year moratorium.

Region 10 Probe of Shortages

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 21 Mar 85 p 3

[Text]

LINDEN (GIS) — The Upper Demerara/ Berbice Regional Democratic Council will shortly begin an investigation into alleged shortages of rice and sugar in Linden.

The decision was taken at a recent statutory meeting of the Council after councillors observed that Lindenians were experiencing difficulty in obtaining both rice and sugar from shops and other outlets in the area despite the

continuation of normal supplies.

An official from the Linden Wholesale Distribution Centre noted that both rice and sugar were being received by the Centre at normal levels and are being distributed to shops and other outlets in Linden.

However, the official stated, some shops and outlets in Linden were not uplifting their supplies of both of these commodities as promptly as may be desired.

A spokesman of the Regional Democratic Council said that the first step by the Council to correct this situation will be the publishing of a list of the shops and outlets in the area which receive supplies of the commodities from the distribution centre.

This will help the Council to monitor the actual sale of the commodities to the consumers, the spokesman said.

Meanwhile, there is already evidence in Linden of deliberate hoarding and black-marketing of the commodities with rice being sold for as much as \$8 per gallon and sugar \$2 per pound.

A recent Police campaign in

the area revealed a small shopkeeper hoarding as many as 15 bags of rice and five bags of sugar. And another shopkeeper, who appeared in court for blackmarketing and failing to affix a price tag to a commodity being offered for sale, was fined \$1 000 and ordered to serve three months in prison.

A top Police official in the area said the campaign against such offenders in Linden will be intensified, with a view to stamping out the practice in the community. It is the view of some residents of Linden that both rice and sugar are being hoarded to support the apparent thriving blackmarketing trade.

CSO: 3298/515

GUYANA

SUPPLEMENTARY FUNDING OF \$25.8 MILLION APPROVED

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 19 Mar 85 p 1

[Text] Government's supplementary provision of \$25.8 million, advanced last year, gained Parliamentary approval yesterday.

The supplementary provision was advanced from the Contingencies Fund to various Government Departments, including the Police, the Education Ministry and the Accountant-General's Office.

PPP Member Narbada Persaud criticised the use of the Contingencies Fund for advancing a supplementary provision of \$620 000 to pay contractors and consultants working on the Coldingen workshop.

Persaud also stated that the amount advanced was more than double the sum originally voted in 1984 for completion of the workshop.

Finance Minister Carl Greenidge explained that the amount presented in the previous estimate was preliminary, as the consultants still needed time to submit their final costs. He admitted however, that "it might have been prudent to be more cautious" in quoting a figure.

Speaking on supplementary provision for awards to Police personnel involved in joint Customs-Police campaign against the parallel market, the PPP's Reepu Daman Persaud said the Minority Party was against this expenditure.

The Customs Department has its functions, he contended, and awards should not be given to the Police for what he termed "harassing and terrorising" exercises.

Dedication

But Home Affairs Minister, Jeffrey Thomas pointed out that the awards recognised individuals' dedication to duty. He also noted that the explanation attached to the provision was inadequate, as the \$669 427 listed as advanced last year for awards to the Police was used for other purposes as well, among them the purchase of Passport Books.

Another 1984 supplementary provision approved yesterday was \$110 000 used for work on the President's College. Education Minister Malcolm Parris explained that this provision funded work scheduled for this year but which was completed by December 24, this year.

On another question by the Minority, Cde. Parris reported that approximately \$3,5 million was collected so far in donations to the President's College Fund.

A lively moment resulted when Minority Member, Narbada Persaud spoke on a \$450 000 provision for additional expenditure on overseas conferences and official visits. The PPP member called on Government to "cut down on the number of these overseas visits."

A ruling PNC member heckled, "tell Cheddi", in reference to Minority Leader Cheddi Jagan's reputation for regular speaking and other engagements abroad.

However, Finance Minister Carl Greenidge noted that the supplementary provision was necessary since many activities undertaken towards the end of the year were not anticipated.

The dragging-on of the Lome negotiations was unforeseen, as were the visits to Cuba on bilateral assistance issues, he said.

He added that the "in-flows" projected in the 1985 budget are "not unrelated" to the overseas visits made last year.

CSO: 3298/516

GUYANA

DEVELOPMENTS INVOLVING TUC, UNIONS, WORKERS REPORTED

TUC Focus on Sugar Industry

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 9 Feb 85 p 3

[Text] The three unions in the sugar industry, the Guyana Agricultural and General Workers' Union, the National Association of Agricultural, Commercial and Industrial Employees and the Guyana Field Foreman and Supervisors Union are to submit a memorandum to the Guyana Trades Union Congress on the state of the Sugar industry.

The Executive Council of the TUC, at its meeting on Wednesday discussed the state of the industry and expressed concern that it was unable to meet its target last year.

The TUC Executive, recognising that the sugar industry is a major source of foreign exchange earnings, said the organisation is prepared to work towards the development of the industry for the benefit of the workers and the country as a whole.

Death Threats on Daniels

Georgetown MIRROR in English 17 Feb 85 p 1

[Text] George Daniels, since assuming the Presidency of the Guyana Trades Union Congress, has taken strong positions which have evidently incurred the wrath of the ruling party. This has set in train schemes aimed at bulldozing him from that top post.

It has come to light that threats have been made to his life. In a recent interview Daniels spoke about it.

"There have been threats, most likely made to get me to temper my position or my executive's position on certain issues. But one can't be put off if others talk about killing...We have a task to perform and will continue to do so in the interest of the workers," he said.

The useless death threats have given way to a concerted campaign to somehow oust Daniels in the hope that this would swing the TUC back to its positions prior to last year's elections when the PNC lost its control over that body.

Not only Daniels, but others exhibiting militancy in unions once or still controlled by the ruling party or their agents, are on the firing line. Many have already been flushed out from prominent positions. This paper has exposed such acts in past months.

Part of the campaign is to remove Daniels as President of the Public Service Union. One top public servant is being groomed to challenge Daniels come union elections. In the meantime strategems are afoot to manipulate union rules to facilitate a Daniels defeat. Mirror understands that much money is being thrown around in the campaign against Daniels.

A smear campaign has also been launched. Rumours have been added to the arsenal, the most persistent one being that the TUC boss is in the employ of some foreign "imperialist" agency.

For the first time attacks have shifted from militant unions and workers to the TUC leadership itself. The coming months will see how that body would respond. Many TUC leaders have their foxiness in the past. Now much more is needed to defend not only George Daniels but the TUC, the unions and the rights of the workers.

Government Pressure on TUC

Georgetown MIRROR in English 24 Feb 85 p 1

[Text] More details of the sinister plot to regain control over the Guyana Trades Union Congress and to oust its President, George Daniels, are unfolding. The forces behind the plot extend not only to pro-government unions but also the state machinery.

At a recent press conference called by TUC leaders including Daniels and General Secretary, Joseph Pollydore, it was revealed that security forces harassed Daniels while he was in Berbice to speak to workers. The state media ignored the press conference.

At one of his meetings, Daniels was hauled away by police and his car searched ostensibly for contraband items. While Daniels said he held fruitful meetings with management of the bauxite and sugar industries he was met with hostility in other places.

The TUC delegation that went to Berbice was prevented from using the New Amsterdam Town Hall. Permission to use the Hall was first granted but withdrawn at the last moment. Daniels was also denied entry into the compound of the New Amsterdam Hospital to speak to members of the Branch of the Public Service Union of which he is the President. The Administrator and the security officials were at the gate to deny him entry. Twice the TUC

Treasurer, N. K. Gopaul, was stopped for security checks. Their movements were apparently well monitored.

The Berbice visit, like others organised by the TUC recently, was to inform workers about the TUC's views on the wages and salaries negotiations with government and other vital matters. This had to be done, said Daniels, due to the difficulties experienced in getting the media to put over the TUC's views. He denied allegations that his visits were intended to cause industrial unrest.

Workers in New Amsterdam passed two resolutions deploring the actions of the authorities and called on the forces opposed to the progressive labour movement to 'desist from harassing our union leaders.'

Denny-TUC Talks

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 25 Feb 85 p 3

[Text] Minister of Manpower and Co-operatives Kenneth Denny had a two-hour meeting with executives of the Guyana Trades Union Congress Saturday to discuss the situation in the sugar industry and the 1984 Annual Production incentive.

The meeting was held against the background of a threatened industrial action in the industry by two of the three unions representing sugar workers.

TUC General Secretary Cde. Joseph Pollydore, said after the meeting that there was an exchange of views and the TUC is to be kept informed of any developments.

Support for Daniels

Georgetown MIRROR in English 3 Mar 85 p 4

[Text] A high-level TUC team last week held a massive meeting with bauxite workers. Addressing the gathering were President George Daniels, Treasurer N. K. Gopaul, Vice-President G. Todd, and Leslie Melville, Asst. Organising Secretary James Dastajir, of GAWU, was unable to attend.

The meeting, held at the hall of the Guyana Bauxite Supervisors Union, was the second in recent times by the new executive elected last year, and is part of a series of meet-the-workers tour intended to inform Guyanese of the TUC's positions on vital issues. The TUC has complained about the negative attitude of the state media in putting over the TUC side on issues like the wages negotiations.

Through resolutions, workers also supported the TUC's demand for a 1984 minimum wage of \$25 per day. They are of the view that the negotiations should end in a settlement before May Day this year.

30 April 1985

The miners who were informed about the harassment of TUC leaders while they were in Berbice recently, passed a resolution condemning such acts and called for a halt to such behaviour by the authorities. Members of the Public Service Union present successfully tabled a motion supporting Daniels as President of that union for a second term. The support is timely, coming at a time when moves are afoot to ditch Daniels. Senior officials in the Education Ministry Allan Munroe, is being backed by pro-PNC elements to fight Daniels for the post.

Other resolutions called for increases in income tax allowances and overtime pay for supervisors. Backing was given to Guyanese security workers who are underpaid. It was proposed that children at Linden demonstrate for scarce food, especially milk.

PPP Message to TUC

Georgetown MIRROR in English 3 Mar 85 p 1

[Text] At the time of the 31st Annual Delegates Conference of the Trades Union Congress, the PPP circulated a Message to all the "distinguished delegates" at the Conference. This Message referred to the parlous state of the economy, the continuing political crisis and the increasing hardships being experienced by the working people.

Reminding the delegates about the historic role and purpose of the TUC, the Message noted in part:

"The TUC is committed to socialism. In November 1978, its Special Conference called for a political solution. The commitment and the call for a political solution based on a democratic, anti-imperialist and socialist-oriented government must be reiterated. We must not get bogged down on the narrow, restricted front of "economism"--the mere struggle for improved wages and working conditions.

We must realise that unless we have a broad-based, revolutionary multi-class/strata coalition government (working class, peasantry, intelligentsia, small businessmen and patriotic capitalists) in which the working class plays the leading and guiding role, the improved wages and working conditions which the workers need will not materialise.

The trade union movement has a crucial role to play at this critical juncture. While fighting for improved wages and working conditions, it must struggle for a political solution and a left and democratic alternative."

It was at this Conference in 1984 that delegates re-asserted the independence of the TUC and gave a rebuff to a number of PNC activists in the TUC leadership. To this day the PNC has not recovered from its shock, and is scheming to undermine the TUC and its President, George Daniels. PNC-inspired manoeuvres against Daniels are already afoot in the Public Service Union, of which Daniels is head.

Sugar Workers' Strike

Georgetown MIRROR in English 3 Mar 85 p 1

[Text] The entire sugar belt has been swept by a powerful strike called by unions in the industry after an ultimatum slapped on Guysuco expired. The strike started on Thursday last.

The ultimatum was intended to force Guysuco back to the negotiation table to discuss Annual Production Incentive for last year. The talks on the issues last year were scuttled when Guysuco decided to make unilateral payments of the incentives which were far below what the unions (including the country's largest GAWU) were demanding. The Unions had contended that the formula used by Guysuco to determine the incentive scale was outdated and not in keeping with reality.

Past years have seen a similar behaviour by Guysuco which served to further strain industrial relations in the industry much to the detriment of the economy. Workers have been pressing for their representatives to take action to stop this practice.

Guysuco is understood to have shown no indication as yet of its willingness to go back to the bargaining table. However, the perilous state of the economy and the fact that sugar is a "net" hard currency earner, may force the corporation to take a more realistic approach before the strike begins to take its toll. At least the unions, according to sources, are hoping that Guysuco would see sense in abandoning its adamant attitude. And the earlier the better for both workers and the industry.

It has been reported that on some estates scabs have been employed to break the strike, but without much success.

Indications are that the strike may not confine itself to the sugar industry as bauxite workers last week, during a meeting with TUC leaders unanimously supported the fight of the sugar workers.

More on Sugar Strike

Georgetown OPEN WORD in English 4 Mar 85 p 4

[Text] GAWU press release states that the protest general strike in the sugar industry called by GAWU and NAACIE on the Annual Production Incentive (API) issue has been adjourned.

OW's West Coast correspondent reported that about 95% of the workers in both field and factory responded to the strike call. The Leonora factory was down for two days. The Uitvlugt factory remained in operation manned by a few process foremen and chargehands, backed by casual labour some of whom are scabs. The majority of the field supervisors did not support the strike. In the view of the correspondent, most of the supervisors are looking for promotion to Field Superintendent (a senior staff post). It is seen as a reward for "good behaviour".

At Uitvlugt factory, the workers went on strike on Wednesday to protest the unilateral imposition of rostering from 44 hours to 40 hours per week and the unilateral withdrawal of incentives received by workers in various areas for over 20 years. Without any prior consultation management informed worker representatives about the changes. When the reps attempted to speak to the workers, the factory manager said that no meetings were to be held in the factory. Thereupon, the workers took the day off in order to meet outside of the factory.

The API strike was a two-day strike on February 28 and March 1.

A sugar worker from LBI Estate wrote OPEN WORD to say that the action there was "very successful and highly multi-racial". He said that you have to organise the working class as a class in order to get them to struggle as a class.

Sugar Incentive Issue

Georgetown MIRROR in English 10 Mar 85 pp 2-3

[Text] The Guyana Agricultural and General Workers' Union states categorically that contrary to a report recently published in the Guyana Chronicle and attributed to a spokesman of the Guyana Sugar Corporation, that a formula for the Annual Production Incentive has not existed since 1978.

According to the GUYSUCO spokesman, for the achievement of 75% of the target of 300,000 tons i.e. 225,000 tons. 1 day's pay would be paid. In 1978, the first day's pay was paid for the production of 234,750 tons. It was 226,875 tons for 1979. 217,500 tons for 1980 and 225,000 tons for 1981. For 1978, had the formula existed, then accordingly sugar workers would have been paid more than 15 days' pay rather than 10 days pay for the production of 324,805 tons sugar in that year.

A proposal for the various day's pay has been established but at negotiations. there has been a failure to agree on the target between GUYSUCO and the trade unions operating in the industry. According to the Corporation, the formula existed since 1978. The Union is unaware of that.

It was only in 1981 that the formula was applied. Had the formula continued, then there would be no reason for the Unions to haggle with GUYSUCO, and payment would have been affected accordingly. Because no formula exists by Agreement, the Corporation is trying to force it on the unions. That has been resisted from 1982, because no agreement was reached.

For 1984, the target was revised by GUYSUCO 3 times, from 289,000 tons to 280,000 tons and finally 270,000 tons. The Unions estimate was 256,000 tons. Because of disagreement on the target, the matter was referred to conciliation on October 16, 1984.

The Unions' contention is that the so-called formula of 300,000 tons for 8 days' pay cannot be considered, when the Corporation hoped to achieve 270,000 tons in 1984, which was not attained.

GUYSUCO reaped 1,379.9 acres more than estimated. Besides, the crop was extended by another three weeks. For 25 long weeks, the workers laboured under adverse weather conditions and in the final analysis, they were fobbed off with a pittance.

The Ministry of Manpower and Co-operatives intervened. But since there was no positive development, a 72-hour ultimatum was served on GUYSUCO.

Although the 72 hours elapsed on Sunday last, no industrial action was immediately taken based on certain proposals made. Regrettably, nothing materialised in the talks with the Minister.

Jagan-TUC Talks

Georgetown MIRROR in English 10 Mar 85 p 1

[Text] The Executive Committee of the Guyana Trades Union Congress has agreed to meet with the General Secretary of the People's Progressive Party, Dr. Cheddi Jagan. No date has been fixed for the meeting but a source said it will be shortly.

Dr. Jagan had requested the meeting with the trade union body to discuss the economic, political and social situation in the country and ways on how to find a solution.

Praise for Government-Worker Ties

Georgetown NEW NATION in English 3 Mar 85 p 4

[Editorial]

[Text] It has long been recognised that the worker is the key to national development. Consequent upon this recognition it is important that there be a meaningful relationship between the worker and the Government.

In Guyana there was the time when the worker and Government were in conflict. This situation could be better understood when we consider that the largest party of the employment sector was in private hands. The converse is true today.

It therefore meant that both the employer and Government were against the worker. It was out of a similar situation that the late, great, Hubert Nathaniel Critchlow founded what was to become the first trade union in Guyana and in the Caribbean.

At that time the Government was interested, mainly, in what it could get from the worker while neglecting the welfare of the very worker on whom the success of the colony depended. The pay was poor; no regard was paid to the daily existence of the worker and his family; social services were below minimum; and the worker had no recourse to judgement when he felt he was wronged or cheated by his employer.

Prior to Critchlow and the trade union movement there was no organisation to represent the worker at the administrative level and all too often the only course of action that was left open to the worker was the strike action which sometimes led to clashes with the police and resulted in death or serious injury.

And even later, when there was representation in the form of trade unionism, the relationship between the Government and the worker was one of conflict rather than co-operation. There was the incident which led to the death of sugar workers at Enmore in 1948. These workers have since been known as the Enmore Martyrs.

In Guyana, today, the Government has come from among the working class. With this background the Government is cognisant of the problems of the worker in the various industries. It is because of this that Government has instituted measures providing for worker-representatives from all sections of industry to participate in the decision-making process.

The worker in today's Guyanese society plans targets, makes recommendations for improvements in the industry, is entrusted with the preservation of the industry, and in some cases, owns the industry.

This development is a far cry from some countries in which the relationship between Government and the worker continues to be one of confrontation.

It was Government's interest in the worker that led to the intervention in the wages talks between Government and the Trades Union Congress. More specifically it was the direct intervention of the Comrade Leader, himself a trade unionist, that brought some relief to the nation's workers.

Government's interest also led to the introduction of paid holidays for workers in the sugar industry, to the payment of incentives, to provision of medical services for the families of workers in the major industries and to the provision of transport facilities in some Ministries.

In the face of this close relationship between Government and the worker, a relationship based on co-operation rather than confrontation, the subversives, both local and foreign, have been active in the field of industrial relations.

Our Comrade Leader said when he addressed the nation on the eve of the 15th anniversary of the Co-operative Republic, from the Square of the Revolution, these subversives have been seeking to foment industrial unrest as they did at Linden and at Kwakwani nearly two years ago.

No worker can deny that his lot is better now than it was prior to the accession of the People's National Congress to the seat of Government.

And with our nation experiencing a turn around in its national economy no worker can afford to sit idly by or allow himself to be influenced by subversives thereby permitting the substantial gains of the workers to be lost.

CSO: 3298/518

GUYANA

15 YEARS OF CO-OP REPUBLIC'S ACHIEVEMENTS REVIEWED

Georgetown NEW NATION in English 3 Mar 85 p 3

[Article by W. Henry Skerrett]

[Text] Guyana's 15 years as a Co-operative Republic have not, of course, been without ups and downs. But progress there has been in significant measure. It is to this progress, that we, on this 15th anniversary, will direct our attention mainly, and consider, also, some of the setbacks that have hampered our development.

One of the main objectives of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana is of course to develop fully the co-operative sector of the economy. To this end, various institutions have been established which are today playing an important role in the country's economic and social development.

Among these institutions are the Guyana National Co-operative Bank, the G.N.C.B. Trust Corporation, the Guyana Co-operative Agricultural and Industrial Development Bank, the Guyana Co-operative Mortgage Finance Bank, the Guyana Co-operative Insurance Service and not least, the establishment, in 1973, of the Kuru Kuru Co-operative College.

This college is concerned with training people for important roles in the efficient running of co-operatives. A co-operative village has also been established at Melanie Damishana on the East Coast of Demerara.

Co-operatives

Mismanagement and misuse of co-operatives have made training institutions and training programmes of supreme importance in co-operative development.

Apart from co-operatives there have been other important developments especially in agriculture. For example, thousands of hectares of land have been cleared at Black Bush Polder and put under cultivation. New communities and housing areas have been established at Joanna, Lesbeholden, Mibikuri and Yakusari, all communities in Black Bush Polder.

When the Guyana Sugar Corporation (GUYSUCO) replaced the expatriate sugar producers, it was concerned exclusively with sugar production. With the PNC government, however, GUYSUCO has diversified its crop production to include

beans, vegetables and black-eye peas mainly. Cassava cultivation is another important aspect of GUYSUCO's operations. So too are fish-farming and the cultivation of oil palm for the national edible oil programme.

The minimum wage before the sugar industry was nationalised was \$6.61 a day. This was increased to \$11.65 in 1978 and to \$15.10 last year. This latest wage hike was decided by the Comrade Leader when negotiations between the government and the Trades Union Congress stalled. These negotiations are now continuing.

Benefits

Sugar workers have nevertheless benefited greatly from improved conditions in the industry. For example, they are now guaranteed out-of-crop employment and are provided with medical care, production and special bonuses, holidays with pay, increased ex-gratia pensions, interest-free loans for housing, apprentice training, welfare facilities such as swimming pools, sports grounds and other benefits.

Any record of the PNC's agricultural policy would be incomplete without specific reference to the Mahaica/Mahaicony/Abary Water Control Project. This is designed to enable some 423 000 acres of land to be placed under cultivation and is unquestionably one of the largest projects ever undertaken in Guyana. Much public attention has in recent years been focused on this great project because of the financial problems aggravated by the machinations of the United States at the World Bank.

Because the U.S. does not like Guyana's economic and foreign policies, especially as they are reflected in its voting pattern at the United Nations, the Reagan administration has put pressure on the Guyana government to get it to change these policies. In this the U.S. has failed signally.

Triumph

This pressure was revealed when the Inter American Development Bank refused to grant Guyana a soft loan to enable it to continue with the MMA Project, despite the fact Guyana had met all the requirements and that the Bank's technical advisers had strongly recommended it.

It is gratifying to note that the loan was approved eventually, although, because of U.S. influence, with conditions less favourable to Guyana. Most important however, is that Guyana's economic and foreign policies remain unchanged. For Guyana this is a real triumph.

Regionally Guyana has played a significant role in bringing about the transformation of CARIFTA (Caribbean Free Trade Association) into CARICOM. Guyana also initiated CARIFESTA which has done much to make all the Caribbean peoples better acquainted with and more appreciative of one another through cultural activities.

Achievements

Some of the more important milestones in Guyana's development since 1970 are of course the nationalisation of the Demerara Bauxite Company in 1971, of Reynold's Metals Company of Sandbach Parker and Diamond Sugar Estates in 1975, of Brookers Mc Connel and Company and its sugar estates in 1976, and last but not least the acquisition of Royal Bank of Canada in 1984.

Other important highlights of development in the Co-operative Republic are the promulgation of the Declaration of Sophia, the establishment of National Service in 1974, of the People's Militia in 1976, the construction of the Demerara River and Canje River bridges in 1978. At this time also, education from kindergarten to university was made available free of charge, a new teachers' training college was erected at Turkeyen; all schools were brought under government ownership and control; and a National Cultural Centre and School of Dance and a National Sports Hall were erected.

Highlights

The introduction of Mass Games as part of the educational process is another feature of Guyana's development. These are now well established and their importance is becoming surely, if slowly, accepted countrywide.

The year 1984 will long be remembered for two important events in Guyana's industrial development. First the ceremonial opening of the VANCERAM tableware factory at Caledonia, an enterprise of the Women's Revolutionary Socialist Movement. This factory was built at a cost of \$6,9 million and is expected to generate about one million dollars in foreign exchange annually.

There was too the opening of the glass factory at Yarowkabra. At both opening ceremonies the Comrade Leader delivered the main address. His presence at these two ceremonies reflected his abiding interest and active involvement in the development of the Co-operative Republic.

Setbacks

These are splendid achievements. But the setbacks have been not a few. Sometimes they were frustrating and vexing. Not least among these was the failure to find oil in commercial quantities, despite very good prospects at the outset.

Gold, found in commercial quantities, has been smuggled out on such a scale that Guyana has lost much foreign exchange. Efforts are being made to correct the situation since the establishment recently of the Guyana Gold Board.

The price of sugar on the world market remains low and is the main cause of Guyana's failure to earn enough foreign exchange to meet the cost of many essential imports.

Guyana is making serious efforts to develop its energy resources. These include the supply of biogas from animal waste. Other possibilities exist in this area to which the PNC government is giving its attention.

Policy

Despite all the problems Guyana is determined to maintain its territorial integrity and promote the true interests of the Guyanese people. The government's policy of non-alignment in foreign relations has been maintained. Guyana pursues a policy of co-operation and friendly relations with all countries except South Africa and Chile. It is committed to socialist development and has very cordial relations with all socialist countries, East and West.

When Guyana became a Co-operative Republic in 1970 it had a titular President under an imposed Constitution. Since 1980 it has had its own Constitution, one written by Guyanese and one that reflects the ethos and aspirations of the whole nation. It is more democratic than the previous Constitution because it provides for people involvement, centrally and regionally, in decision-making processes.

Guyana completes its 15th anniversary as a Co-operative Republic with one particularly bright prospect--a turn around in the bauxite industry. May this fortunate development continue uninterrupted as time marches on.

CSO: 3298/518

GUYANA

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY APPROVES LICENSE FEES FOR TV'S

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 15 Mar 85 p 1

[Article by Colin King]

[Text] The National Assembly yesterday approved a bill to include television apparatus under licensing provisions of the Post and Telegraph Act.

The Post and Telegraph (Amendment) Bill 1985 applies licence provisions for wireless telegraph to television apparatus as well, and enables the relevant minister to make regulations prescribing licence fees for television apparatus.

In yesterday's session, the National Assembly also paid tribute to two former members who died recently. Motions of condolence were passed on the death of William Alexander Blair and Goberdhan Harry Lall, noting their 'distinguished service' to Parliament and to Guyana.

Taking the Post and Telegraph Bill through Parliament, Vice-President, Social Infrastructure, Hamilton Green observed that the existing licence procedure was enacted at a time when there was no satellite or television broadcasting.

Today, "television sets abound in our society," he said, adding that the Bill seeks to ensure that this type of equipment is covered by laws.

In the 1985 budget, presented January, Finance Minister Carl Greenidge announced licence fees of 200 and 250 dollars per annum for television receiving sets and 40 000 dollars per annum for television transmission systems.

Speaking on the Bill, People's Progressive Party member Reepu Daman Persaud said the Bill facilitates taxation of television apparatus and should be withdrawn since the government provides no service to television users.

United Force member, Marcellus Feilden-Singh, echoed the PPP member's view. Both minority members asked what were Government's plans for establishing a public television service.

Vice-President Green responded, however, that the question raised on the introduction of public television in Guyana seemed to belong to another debate and another time.

And, he rejected the contention that the Government should avoid licensing television apparatus if it does not provide a service to users of the television equipment. Government never had an obligation to provide a service before applying a licence, he noted.

Cde Green referred to the example of dog licences which were once required, and he was unaware of any service provided by the Government.

CSO: 3298/518

GUYANA

GREEN, NEW AUSTRALIAN ENVOY EXCHANGE REMARKS

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 7 Mar 85 p 1

[Text] The serious economic problems confronting the international community will be resolved only when there is concerted action by all countries, Vice-President, Social Infrastructure, Hamilton Green stressed yesterday.

Cde. Green, who was replying to the accreditation speech by Australia's High Commissioner Michael Landale, also underlined the importance of a peaceful and safe world environment in which Governments could pursue the legitimate aspirations of their peoples.

Landale, a lawyer who joined his country's Department of Foreign Affairs in 1971, presented his credentials to Vice-President Green yesterday morning.

In his accreditation speech, the Australian envoy referred to the low demand and low prices for bauxite and cane sugar, important commodities in both Australia and Guyana.

He expressed the hope that the two countries "will find ways of working together to create a freer and more effective economic system, in which trade barriers are substantially reduced and from which both developing and developed countries can draw benefit."

Guyana and Australia, in spite of their differing circumstances and geographical positions, are confronted with "similar challenges in living in a changing and difficult world environment," Landale said. In this regard, he stressed the need for a peaceful world, adding that "the preservation of peace through effective disarmament" was a primary concern of the Australian Government.

Guyana has noted with satisfaction Australia's efforts particularly within the United Nations system, to create a peaceful and safe world environment, Cde. Green said. He expressed the hope that "this mutuality of interests" would stimulate further exchanges between the two countries at both the bilateral and multilateral levels.

Both Cde. Green and High Commissioner Landale referred to the recent honour awarded by the Australian Government to West Indies Cricket captain, Guyanese Clive Lloyd.

Cde. Green described Lloyd as "one of our ablest and most distinguished ambassadors in the field of sport." He said Lloyd's contribution "to making a reality of the high ideals of sport, advancing goodwill and understanding between the peoples of Guyana and Australia and to the strengthening of relationships among Commonwealth countries, more than amply deserves these high accolades."

CSO: 3298/518

GUYANA

DESPITE STRIKE, SUGAR OUTPUT REACHES 91 PERCENT OF TARGET

Georgetown SUNDAY CHRONICLE in English 3 Mar 85 pp 1, 2

[Text] Despite a three-day strike called by the Guyana Agricultural Workers' Union and the National Association of Agricultural, Commercial and Industrial Employees, the Guyana Sugar Corporation recorded the production of 7035 tons of sugar, representing 91.0 per cent of the week's estimated target.

Albion for the fifth time this crop surpassed its estimate for this week while Rose Hall earned its fifth consecutive Honours Roll placement with production, nine per cent above estimate. The lone Demerara estate gaining production honours was Leonora with production also above the target.

And with the week's 7036 tons, this crop's total moves to 44,450 tons or 90.8 per cent of the estimates as at last weekend. However 329 grinding hours have been lost because of the strike action.

The unions are demanding eight days' pay for less than 250 000 tons sugar produced in 1984, but, based upon the formula agreed on in 1978, Guysuco maintains that workers have not earned the eight day's pay being demanded.

A Guysuco release said the formula which continues to be valid, provides for the payment of eight days' pay for the production of 300,000 tons of sugar in any given year. In addition to the Annual Production Incentive, sugar workers continue to earn additional monthly incentives whenever individual estates achieve their monthly targets.

At the end of the last monthly incentive period for the current crop, sugar workers at Skeldon have earned two days' pay, Albion three day's, Rose Hall two days' and L.B.I. and Wales one day's pay each.

At the week-ending March 8, sugar workers would have been eligible for their second monthly production incentive.

At least five estates--Skeldon, Rose Hall, Blairmont, L.B.I. and Wales--were sure to qualify had they maintained their production trend.

Qualifying workers could have earned two to four days' pay for February. It was also likely that Albion and Enmore workers would also have qualified. Under the monthly production scheme all estates can qualify for up to four days' pay each month.

The release said the present strike called by the GAWU and N.A.A.C.I.E. is not only disrupting production but is also ensuring that workers do not earn incentives each month.

Meanwhile a GAWU press release yesterday stated that the strike had been called off 'to give the Corporation and the Minister of Manpower and Co-operatives another opportunity to resolve the matter in the interest of all parties concerned.'

It said the two unions had decided to order a full resumption from March 3, in the hope that the A.P.I. issue would be amicably settled.

There membership had alerted to take further strike action should the matter remain unduly prolonged the release concluded.

CSO: 3298/516

GUYANA

MARKET SITUATION MAY KILL URANIUM EXPLORATION

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 21 Feb 85 pp 4-5

[Text] Exploration for uranium in Guyana may be curtailed because of recent negative trends in the international market for this radio active metal.

Cogema, the French company exploring for uranium in Region One (Barima-Waini) and Region Seven (Cuyuni-Mazaruni) is likely to close its operations here later this year, an official of the Energy and Mines Ministry said Monday.

Uranium deposits have been discovered in Guyana, but Cogema (operating here since the late 1970s) has not yet completed studies to determine whether it is present in commercial quantities, the official explained.

The French company has discovered a substantial quantity of uranium in Saskatchewan, Canada, and sources said this development may influence any decision on the company's operations in Guyana.

The Guyana Government proposes to have discussions with several countries, mainly from Eastern Europe, on possible co-operation in uranium exploration and exploitation, the Ministry official said.

Meanwhile, Cogema is reported to have expressed an interest in becoming involved in gold and diamond mining in Guyana.

Uranium, a source of nuclear energy, is a radioactive metal. Uranium 235 is used in nuclear reactors, while the more plentiful uranium 238 is used to make plutonium, another nuclear fuel.

There has been a glut of uranium on the world market for the last five years, with demand for and production of the metal declining over the last three years. Prices for uranium oxide fell from \$40 (U.S.) per pound in 1980 to \$15 (U.S.) last year.

In 1983, a number of uranium plants in the United States were closed. Long-term contracts for the purchase and sale of uranium have also declined in recent years. Some possible causes for a decline in the demand for uranium, the Energy and Mines official said, could be the "very effective" work of environment groups and the nuclear industry's failure so far to work out a technically and economically feasible disposal system.

GUYANA

BRIEFS

HOYTE-JAGAN MEETING--Prime Minister Cde. Desmond Hoyte yesterday met Minority Leader, Dr. Cheddi Jagan, at the latter's request. By a letter dated February 26, 1985, Dr. Jagan had requested an interview to explain certain ideas he had on the question of the electoral system and the constitutional and legal procedures attendant thereto. The Comrade Prime Minister listened with interest to Dr. Jagan's views and thanked him for sharing them with him. Dr. Jagan also attempted to raise issues related to the current partial strike in the Sugar Industry, but the Comrade Prime Minister declined to enter into substantive discussions on such matters and referred Dr. Jagan to the Minister Responsible for Labour within whose portfolio industrial relations falls. The meeting lasted 45 minutes. [Text] [Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 2 Mar 85 p 1]

IDB LOAN--The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) has approved a \$28 million (US) loan to help Guyana carry out an industrial recovery programme, a release from the local IDB office said yesterday. The programme is intended to bring about greater utilisation of installed capacity in the industrial sector and help increase export. The loan will be utilised by the Guyana Co-operative and Industrial Development Bank (GAIBANK) to grant credits to exporting firms. The U.S. voted against the loan. The programme resources will be channelled to manufacturing firms, sugar mills and rice mills for the purchase of inputs, spare parts and accessories. It will also be used to execute new projects and to establish, expand and modernise installations and equipment. The private sector will benefit. The programme will be carried out within the framework of the Bank's industrial recovery programme, under which similar loans have been granted to a number of member countries. About \$446 000 (US) of the loan resources will be devoted to technical co-operation to help GAIBANK and the country's industrial sector implement the programme. The total cost of the project is estimated at \$40 million (US) of which the Bank will provide 70 per cent, the Government of Guyana 20 per cent and the OPEC Special Fund the remaining 10 per cent. [Text] [Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 16 Feb 85 p 1]

GOLD SALES QUERY--In defending four Guyana Gold Board employees charged with larceny of \$84,847.96 worth of gold Defence Lawyer Mr. J. A. Juman-Yassin applied to have produced in Court financial records of the Board's overseas sales. It was disclosed in court that 90% of the gold purchased by the Gold Board went to the Office of the President and 10% was sold locally. The gold handed over to the President's Office was said to be sent abroad through the

Ministry of Foreign Affairs. It was said to be taken out of the country by couriers, one of whom was Mr. E. V. Luckhoo. Some of the gold exported was sold in London by the Guyana High Commissioner, and the rest in the USA by the Guyana Ambassador. It was not disclosed how the foreign exchange received from these sales was used. As the Gold Board is a corporate body, the defence argued that the Board's books should record the receipts and disbursements of the foreign exchange received from the sales, and applied for the records to be produced. Magistrate Ramraj Jagnandan rejected the application on the grounds that it was irrelevant to the trial. [Text] [Georgetown CATHOLIC STANDARD in English 17 Feb 85 p 3]

CSO: 3298/518

JAMAICA

ARMY GIVEN CONTROL OF AIRFIELDS IN DRUG CRACKDOWN

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 2 Mar 85 p 3

[Text]

KINGSTON, Jamaica, Friday (CANA) — The Jamaica Government has placed four aerodromes here under the control of the army in the latest move to crack down on the island's multi-million dollar drug trade, the authorities announced.

The Tinson Penn field in Kingston, Bascobel in the northern parish of St. Mary, Ken Jones in Portland, north-east Jamaica, and Megril in the west are now designated military aerodromes and are under the command of the Jamaica Defence Force, according to the Ministry of Public Utilities and Transport.

It said these fields will

no longer be available for use by civil aircraft except with the prior consent of the army chief of staff.

Jamaica has a big marijuana trafficking problem, with most the drug taken out by light aircraft which land at numerous illegal landing strips around the island.

But officials say significant trafficking also takes place through accredited aerodromes and the two international airports, Norman Manley in Kingston and Donald Sangster in Montego Bay.

The government here has been under pressure from the United States to crack down on the trade

and recent legislation has given the relevant authorities greater power to destroy likely landing fields, to control Jamaica's airspace and higher fines for illegal landing.

The government is also concerned over the consequences of the drug trade for the national carrier, Air Jamaica, whose planes are frequently being held in the United States with marijuana.

The ministry said existing Jamaica air transport undertakings with valid licences or permits will be honoured for the agreeable periods. Thereafter permission will have to be sought from the Defence Force through the civil aviation directorate.

Owners and operators of civil aircraft currently parked at the fields have until month end to make new applications to maintain the facility.

Government employees at the aerodromes have been sent home on leave pending determination of their status, the ministry said.

CSO: 3298/520

MEXICO

PAN SEEN JEOPARDIZING MANY PRI CAPITAL ELECTORAL DISTRICTS

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 11 Mar 85 pp 1-A, 12-A

[Article by Humberto Aranda]

[Text] Inadequate election campaigns waged 3 years ago by outgoing PRI deputies in the capital, especially in 19 of the 40 districts in the Federal District, resulted in considerable progress by the opposition, mainly the PAN [National Action Party], compared with the election results of 1979.

In 1982, there were cases in which the "blue and white" party tripled the number of votes obtained in 1979. According to analyses by the PRI itself, it is the current PRI candidates who will run the greatest risk in June because their districts "were insufficiently worked in 1982."

The following candidates are in that predicament:

Adrian Mora Aguilar, 8th district, where the current deputy is Juan Salgado Saldana Rosell. Three years ago, the PAN won 21,387 votes compared with 8,665 in 1979.

Jaime Aguilar Alvarez, 10th district, where PANists in 1979 won 14,873 votes, compared with a total of 32,867 in 1982. The outgoing deputy is Manuel Osante Lopez, whose poor relations with the voters recently led to the occupation of the district offices of the PRI.

Javier Pineda Serino, 15th district, where in 1979 the PAN won 11,724 votes, compared with 23,353 3 years ago. The outgoing deputy is Juan Jose Osorio.

Francisco Berlin Valenzuela, 16th district. The current PRI deputy is Jose Aguilar Alcerreca watched PAN votes climb from 10,896 votes in 1979 to 21,?57 [illegible] in 1982.

Guillermo Fonseca Alvarez, 17th district, where the opposition party in 1979 received 10,136 votes and in 1982, 22,151. This district is now represented by Guillermo Davila Martinez.

Antonio Punzo Gaona, 20th district. In 1979, the PAN won 11,635 votes and in 1982, 23,641. The retiring deputy is Mateo de Regil Rodriguez.

Ofelia Casillas Ontiveros, 21st district. From 13,817 votes in 1979, the PAN rose to 28,136 in 1982. The incumbent deputy is Everardo Gamiz Fernandez.

Juan Jose Castillo Mota, 20th district. Here, the PAN won 31,341 votes in 1982, compared with 13,142 in 1979, against PRI candidate Jose Carreno Carlon.

Juan Jose Bremer Martino, 23d district. From 13,846 votes in 1979, the PAN went to 27,048 in 1982. Three years ago, the PRI candidate was Servio Tulio Acuna.

Federico Granja Ricalde, 24th district. The current PRI deputy, Daniel Balanzario Diaz, watched PAN votes go from 13,055 in 1979 to 45,509 in 1982.

Manuel German Parra Prado, 26th district. In 1982, the PAN obtained 31,819 votes, compared with 13,550 in 1979. The retiring PRI deputy is Ignacio Cuauhtemoc Paleta.

Gilberto Nieves Jenkins, 28th district. The current PRI deputy, Xochitl E. Llaena de Guillen, 3 years ago watched the PAN go from 15,856 votes in 1979 to 46,285 in 1982.

Agustin Bernal Villanueva, 28th district. Here, the PAN received 16,323 votes in 1979 and in 1982, 27,671. The PRI deputy died in office.

Fernando Ulibarri Perez, 32d district. Luz Lajous Vargas de Madrazo, PRI deputy 3 years ago, watched PAN votes go from 7,359 in 1979 to 18,999 in 1982.

Manuel Jimenez Guzman, 36th district. With Armando Corona Boza as the PRI candidate, the PAN obtained 25,454 votes 3 years ago compared with 13,772 in the previous election.

Gonzalo Castellot, 37th district. In this area, the PAN won 10,927 votes in the 1979 elections and 23,070 in the 1982 vote, against PRI candidate Alfonso Valdivia Ruvalcaba.

Socrates Rizzo Garcia, 38th district. Three years ago, the PAN doubled its votes received in 1979, from 15,613 to 30,307. The PRI candidate 3 years ago was Alejandro Posadas Espinoza.

Miguel Osorio Marban, from the 39th district. Here, the PAN obtained 10,659 votes in 1979 and 24,845 in 1982, when the PRI candidate was Perla Alicia Sanchez.

Finally, Juan Jose Castro Justo, 40th district, where PAN votes also shot up, from 19,034 in 1979 to 57,503 in 1982. Three years ago, the PRI candidate was the current deputy, Norma Lopez Cano y Aveleyra.

11,464
CSO: 3248/311

MEXICO

CHIAPAS: CIOAC, CNC CONFRONTATION

Tuxtla Gutierrez LA VOZ DEL SURESTE in Spanish 3 Mar 85 p 7

[Text] Simojovel--There has been a resurgence of problems concerning the ownership of land due to the apathy of the agrarian representatives and the lack of authority, in this case, for proceeding to define boundaries of land whose possession is disputed by peasants belonging to the CIOAC [Independent Central Organization of Agricultural Workers and Peasants] and others affiliated with the CNC [National Peasant Confederation], according to Enrique Lopez Ruiz and Sebastian Lopez Perez, the former representing the CIOAC.

The two say that 500 members of the CIOAC are standing guard in the town of Pauchil in order to protect their comrades from the threats of the opposing group headed by Ramon Moreno and Artemio Diaz, who are preventing Agrarian Reform officials to do the boundary surveying work.

The same problem exists in El Vergel, Campo las Granjas, Benito Juarez and San Francisco in the municipality of Huitiupan, settlements under the control of Ramon Moreno and Artemio Diaz. The latter have set themselves up as the masters of the situation and, backed by no one knows whom or what, challenge the very officials of the Agrarian Reform and preventing their employees from carrying out orders that would put an end to the conflict.

Reports emphasize that the conflicts are growing ever more acute due to the fact that officials of the Agrarian Reform delegation refuse to meet peasant demands, using the strategem of summoning the complaining peasants week after week, postponing dates and failing to pay attention to incipient problems or using their authority. Such is the case in Pauchil, where a couple of agitators prevent employees from carrying out agrarian resolutions.

Due to the incompetence of the Agrarian Reform delegation, CIOAC officials warn that, along with other peasant organizations, they will stage a protest against agrarian authorities.

11,464
CSO: 3248/311

MEXICO

BRIEFS

1984 IMPORT FIGURES--Imports showed a steady climb throughout 1984, the Mexican Foreign Commerce Institute reports, with Mexico's manufacturing industry showing the biggest gains. Imports for 1984 were 11.25 billion dollars, up by 2.7 billion dollars over 1983--an annual increase of 31.6 percent. Public-sector imports totalled 4.79 billion dollars. Agricultural imports accounted for 31.4 percent of the public-sector purchases, para-state manufacturing operations, 66.1 percent and mining, 1.5 percent. The private sector accounted for 6.46 billion dollars in imports--an increase of 52.3 percent over 1983. A total of 92.3 percent of the private-sector imports were made by the manufacturing industry [Excerpts] [Mexico City THE NEWS in English 1 Apr 85 p 4]

SENATE GRAND COMMISSION PRESIDENT--Antonio Riva Palacio Lopez has been elected president of the Senate's Grand Commission. [Summary] [PA071828 Mexico City EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish 30 Mar 85 pp 1, 14]

CSO: 3248/314

NICARAGUA

BONN TIGHTENS CONDITIONS ON ECONOMIC AID

Frankfurt/Main FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE ZEITUNG in German 6 Mar 85 p 4

[Text] According to Bonn's Minister of State Moellemann, the Federal Government will make new economic aid dependent on only one condition: Nicaragua must cease its interference in the internal affairs of its neighboring states. This was agreed on by the Federal Cabinet on Tuesday. The condition would be met if Central American countries like El Salvador informed the Federal Republic that Nicaragua's "destabilizing" infringements had ceased. As related by Moellemann, Federal Chancellor Kohl assured the cabinet that he would discuss the subject of human rights violations with Paraguay's President Stroessner during the latter's visit to Bonn in July. Government spokesman Boenisch commented that the chancellor would "of course" discuss the Mengele affair with General Stroessner.

Moellemann said the government of Paraguay had now officially informed the Federal Government that former KZ [concentration camp] physician Mengele was no longer in Paraguay. However, should there be any doubt about this, Kohl would ask the president for clarification before his visit, so said the Foreign Office's Minister of State. Moellemann opposed "a selective application of the requirement that human rights be respected" before extending invitations for official visits to the Federal Republic. Commenting on objections to Stroessner's visit, Moellemann said that the Federal Government would have to reduce its international exchange of visits by one third if it applied the human rights criterion to all cases. "Genscher would then have to leave out three of the four countries he planned to visit this week."

After a trip to Latin America, Moellemann recommended that the United States stop supporting the "Contras" who are fighting in Nicaragua. Otherwise, it could hardly be expected of the government in Nicaragua to agree to a "dialogue of national reconciliation," along the lines of El Salvador, as Bonn and now Washington, too, desire. During his discussion with Moellemann, Nicaragua's President Ortega did not reject the proposal for "talks on national reconciliation," according to the under secretary. Ortega requested that the European visitor use his influence with the United States to press for the continuation of the Latin American countries' Contadora efforts for the pacification of Central America.

PERU

CHURCH REJECTS SUPPORT OF ANY POLITICAL PARTY

Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 22 Mar 85 p A-1

[Text] The Peruvian Episcopate yesterday exhorted participants in the upcoming election to observe the proper decorum and respect, emphasizing better service to the community rather than personal benefit.

The Episcopate also criticized the corruption that is prevalent today, noting that "if we are not able to overcome that corruption through this very electoral process, we run the serious risk of precipitating and institutionalizing a widespread moral bankruptcy."

In a statement issued on the occasion of the elections, the Permanent Council of the Peruvian Episcopal Conference recalled the appeal made by Pope John Paul II during his recent visit to the country, and asked that "a more fraternal and united Peru be built."

The document explains that the Church's mission is not political. It is not up to the Church to determine or advocate specific technical solutions to social, economic and political problems, or to fight for a given party; rather, its mission is essentially religious.

"For this reason," it goes on, "during the present electoral process the Church does not intend to suggest that Peruvians support a specific political system or model of society. It wishes only to remind Catholics of the evangelical criteria and ethical principles that should govern their attitudes and activities at this time.

"The responsibility of our vote to elect the new leaders shapes the country's future," claims the Episcopate.

Addressing Christians, the document notes that they are completely free to make political choices, the only limitations being those derived from the Christian perception of man and society, by virtue of which they may not support or promote political programs or models of society that do not affirm or respect the dignity and rights of all human beings, and the values on which they are based.

The Episcopate goes on to remind the country's future leaders of the two major problems that face Peru: the shortage of jobs and the foreign debt.

In addition, the document informs bishops and priests that through their ministry they bear witness and serve the truth of the Gospel, and are the foundation that unites the people of God. "For this reason, it is their duty to promote the evangelical values that should inspire all human activity, including political activity; but they themselves, because of their mission, must absolutely renounce all partisan political activity, whether direct or indirect, corporate or personal."

8926

CSO: 3348/541

PERU

GOLD, SILVER SALES DESIGNED TO SUPPORT PRICES

Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 23 Mar 85 p A-15

[Text] For the purpose of helping to boost the price of silver, over the next 2 weeks the Mining Bank of Peru will offer 50,000 medallions of that metal for sale, pegged to the Andean peso.

The announcement was made by the president of that banking institution, Rafael Manrique Postigo, at the end of the ceremony for the presentation of documentation on the hydrometallurgical plant that is to be built in Peru. The plant has been donated by the Italian Government.

Manrique Postigo stated that the medallions will be sold in all member countries of the Andean Pact, and their face value will be approximately one dollar. He added that there is also a project to issue silver certificates; the project has been approved by the National Supervisory Commission for Enterprises and Securities (CONASEV), and the Chamber of Deputies issued a favorable report on it.

Issuance of the certificates, which will have a variable value and will be backed by silver deposited in the vaults of the Mining Bank, will begin in June or July.

The documentation for the hydrometallurgical plant was delivered by Italian Ambassador Federico di Roberto to Minister of Energy and Mines Juan Inchaustegui Vargas in a ceremony that took place in the board room of the Mining Bank.

Di Roberto stated that the donation of this modern plant strengthens the ties of deep friendship that have long been a tradition between Italy and Peru.

He pointed out that in 6 to 8 months the components of the plant will arrive in Peru, and within a year at the outside, the plant will be functioning in Callao as one more proof of the friendship between the two nations.

Minister Juan Inchaustegui, after thanking the Italian Government for the donation, stated that above and beyond the value of the plant itself, it provides evidence of the bond of friendship between Italy and Peru.

He stressed that this contribution has been made under the auspices of the pact between the governments of Peru and Italy for international technical cooperation, and noted that his sector has benefitted particularly from such cooperation.

The plant, valued at \$2.2 million, will process 100 tons of minerals from Nazca and Ica each day. In addition to treating precious metals, it will be able to clean contaminated minerals, especially those tainted with mercury and arsenic.

At the ceremony, the president of the Mining Bank introduced the bank's new board of directors.

8926

CSO: 3348/536

PERU

MANUFACTURERS PROTEST HIGH IMPORT TAXES

Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 23 Mar 85 p A-15

[Text] Peruvian manufacturers must pay customs duties of 97 to 125 percent to import capital goods, while similar firms in other countries of the Andean Group pay only value added taxes, which range from 0 to 10 percent.

These facts were noted by the managing director of Industrial Brawns S.A., Fausto Huertas del Pino Garay, during a working visit to his plant by Alvaro Becerra Sotero, minister of industry, trade, tourism and integration, last week.

After stressing the importance of the visits the minister of industries is making to various plants in Lima and the provinces in order to get a first-hand look at their individual problems, Huertas indicated that it is ironic that the importation of vehicles labeled "utilitarian" requires lower customs tariffs and duties than imported machinery does.

He asked that the industrial sector be allowed to pay its import duties in installments over periods of 18 to 24 months for the importation of capital goods. This would be done in the form of staggered promissory notes, without interest and duly backed by private banks. He pointed out that the terms could be rediscounted by the state through the Central Reserve Bank.

Becerra Sotero indicated that the manufacturing industry needs understanding on the part of the government, as well as stimulation so that it can do its part to overcome the tremendous crisis the country is undergoing at this time. He asserted that neither agriculture nor commerce is able to create very many new jobs or raise the income level of the working classes.

He stated that because these sectors are saturated, only the industrial sector will be able to bring about the recovery.

Industrial Brawns S.A. has been manufacturing air and oil filters for 39 years. The filters are also made to meet specifications for working conditions in the mountains, the jungles and the coastal regions, and have earned quality seals from the Institute of Industrial Technology and Standards Research (ININTEC).

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PERU

ITALY DONATES PRECIOUS METALS TREATMENT PLANT

Lima EQUIS X in Spanish 25 Mar 85 p 28

[Article by Humberto Moncada]

[Text] In a ceremony held at the Mining Bank, the president of that institution, Rafael Manrique Postigo, accepted the documents for a precious metals treatment plant that has been donated by the Italian Government. The plant is valued at \$2.2 million (18.7 billion sols).

Italian Ambassador to Peru Federico di Roberto and Minister of Energy and Mines Juan Inchaustegui attended the ceremony, as did representatives of Parliament and other guests.

The plant will utilize the hydrometallurgical process, and will be installed at Jiron Contralmirante Villar in Callao. According to the terms of the donation, in 6 months the components of this pilot plant will arrive in Peru. The plant will be able not only to treat precious metals, but also to clean contaminated minerals, especially those tainted with mercury and arsenic.

Entirely New Technology

Mining Bank President Manrique Postigo, who just took office a short time ago, indicated that the plant's technology is entirely new; the most well-known plants of this type are fire-powered, and discharge gas pollutants into the environment. This plant, however, is water-powered, thus eliminating the pollution problem.

He also stated that 100 tons of minerals can be processed each day, so the plant is considered a semi-industrial operation.

He also emphasized that the donation includes a feasibility study and the transfer of hydrometallurgical technology, as well as the loan of Italian experts who will oversee the assembly of the plant and will teach Peruvians the technology involved. Above all, he stressed Italy's contribution to the development of mining technology.

The minerals that will be treated will come from Nazca and Ica, and the Mining Bank will be able to expand the workforce (PEA). For this reason, this plant is of primary importance to small- and medium-scale mining, since eliminating

arsenic and mercury from the metals will render the treated minerals commercially valuable.

Italian-Peruvian Friendship

Italian Ambassador Federico di Roberto noted that technological cooperation is a fundamental means of political and financial cooperation, and is evidence of the friendship between our two countries. He recalled that Peru and Italy are linked by a long tradition of friendship, and he traced the history of the donation, which was arranged quickly and in record time. "I should say in all honesty that it was not very hard for me to convince the officials of my country that this is an important donation, and at all times I found them most receptive to the idea of making this donation," he stated.

At the same ceremony, Minister of Energy and Mines Juan Inchaustegui also spoke. He claimed that the Peruvian-Italian friendship is not limited to words, but also is manifested in fruitful deeds. He stressed that Italy is also helping Peru with various hydroelectric projects.

Later, Mining Bank President Manrique Postigo responded to questions from the press. He reported that another metals treatment plant will be purchased from France and installed in Chimbote.

Also in response to a question, he indicated that the price of silver has edged up slightly on the international market, but because the prices are at rock bottom, they can be expected to rise in the coming months. Moreover, he stated that talks are being held with Mexico, another major silver producer, to control the supply and thus obtain better prices.

Other projects are underway, he emphasized, though they are not as significant. One is an effort to encourage the use of silver in minting coins, and another is the issuance of silver certificates.

Dr Manrique Postigo has been an official of the Mining Bank for many years; he was its general manager from December 1981 until recently. He has 31 years' experience as a high-ranking executive in major banking, financial and industrial firms, and has also worked for several foreign companies. He is a career executive who is very popular in the Mining Bank, and was named president in recognition of his merits.

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PERU

MINING BANK PRESIDENT EXPLAINS POLICIES, OBJECTIVES

Lima EQUIS X in Spanish 25 Mar 85 pp 23-24, 26

[Interview with Dr Rafael Manrique Postigo, chairman of the board of the Mining Bank, by Jose Benavente; date, time and place not given]

[Text] Dr Rafael Manrique Postigo launched an aggressive campaign last week to establish a rapport with the institutions that represent small and medium mining firms, practically the same day that he took office as chairman of the board of the Mining Bank of Peru.

"The bank must approach the mining firms," explained the new chairman, "to explain to them the policy we intend to pursue, and primarily to find out what their needs are and satisfy them."

30 Years in the Bank

Dr Manrique is a professional with a very strong background in mining and financial affairs. In December 1981 he began serving as general manager of the Mining Bank, and he has more than 30 years' experience as a top executive in banking, financial and industrial firms.

Dr Manrique, who was born in Lima 57 years ago and has three children, contends that the miners and their credit institution must form a united front to seek specific solutions to the problems that plague this activity, so that the "horrifying crisis" in this sector can be overcome.

In the following interview, this efficient Peruvian professional responds to questions asked by EQUIS X regarding the current situation and prospects of the mining industry, and the role the Mining Bank will play in solving its problems.

[Question] How would you define the Mining Bank of Peru's basic objectives, focusing on the year 2000?

[Answer] In an effort to summarize, I would say that these are the Bank's basic objectives:

- a) Give top priority to credit as the principal tool for the development and promotion of mining.

- b) Develop and institutionalize mechanisms to cushion the cyclical crises the mining sector undergoes.
- c) Adapt the structure and the operational mechanisms to the needs of the mining sector at the various levels.
- d) Encourage small mining producers and small miners to expand their operations further.

[Question] It is well known that you climbed to the position of chairman of the board of the Mining Bank from very modest beginnings in your working life. What do you feel is your commitment to the Bank's future, given that you have spent nearly all your life there?

[Answer] I began working in the banking world in 1945 as a concierge at the Credit Bank. Later I moved on to professional and management positions at the Popular Bank, and I eventually became central manager of the Continental Bank.

I have been general manager of the Mining Bank of Peru for 3 years. My experience in the banking sector has enabled me to become familiar with the problems the Mining Bank and the sector it serves are facing. Thus, as chairman, my commitment is to streamline the institution's operations and adapt them to the real needs of the mining sector, to serve this sector not by force of law, but by virtue of the efficiency and effectiveness of our services.

[Question] It is said that the Bank lacks long-term policies aimed at protecting mining from the steady decline in minerals prices. To what extent is this true, and what actions will the Bank take in this regard?

[Answer] The Bank is using certain means to cushion the impact of the cyclical crises that plague the mining sector. We have had good results with some of them, such as the Mining Acceptance, the Consolidation and Refinancing Fund that draws on the Mining Bank's own resources, and the Mining Consolidation Fund that uses government funds. We plan to institutionalize these mechanisms, supplementing them with financial safety nets in the form of funds to which producers would contribute percentages of their sales, which would then be returned to them at higher rates during bad times. We are also thinking about setting up an investment fund, which, in general terms, would attract savings from the mining sector and the general public sector to be invested in mining. It would serve as a stockbroker. The investment would be carried out systematically and comprehensively, such that the financial surpluses resulting from some investments would more than make up for losses that may be incurred in others. Moreover, profits would be higher than earnings on savings accounts.

The 45 years that the Mining Bank has spent serving this sector has provided enough experience and wisdom that we can put together a package of measures that will automatically come into play in the future whenever international prices fall.

[Question] What are the Bank's possibilities and limitations for extending its operations to medium- and large-scale mining? Are Centromin, Minpeco, Southern Peru among the Bank's clients?

[Answer] The Bank's actions are defined primarily by our Charter and Bylaws, which indicate that the Mining Bank's activities are limited to small- and medium-scale mining in this country.

[Question] Do you think that, in view of falling prices, shutting down mines is a realistic alternative to the Bank's investing in the development of small mining firms' reserves? In either case, production would be paralyzed until prices improved.

[Answer] Experience in the mining sector, and in fact the attitude of the mining firms with highly trained experts, indicate that during crises in this activity the marketing of minerals should cease to a certain extent, and special emphasis should be given to exploration, investment and discovering new reserves. The Bank will provide these technical guidelines to the small miners or mining firms that need them, and will always provide the financial aid necessary to achieve these ends.

[Question] Some say that the Bank's operations are too strictly limited by the regulations of the General Comptroller's Office. Is it true that for that and other reasons, the Bank needs a new charter and new bylaws?

[Answer] The only limitations on the Bank's activities are those contained in our own charter and bylaws and the Banking Act, complemented by policy guidelines issued by the Economy and Finance sector and the Energy and Mines sector.

The General Comptroller's Office is a control agency that enforces these regulations and monitors their effects, so it does not limit the Bank's activities. Only the provisions we mentioned above do that.

The need to update our charter arises out of our adaptation to the mechanisms and needs of the mining sector in order to streamline its operations. We must not forget that the current charter of the Bank, unlike those of other development institutions, goes back to 1968.

Serving Small Miners

[Question] There is an impression that the Bank cannot compete with the private banks in providing efficient services to the mining sector. It is said, for example, that the Bank takes up to 30 days to process a letter of guaranty, while other banks can issue one in 48 hours. What is the truth of the matter?

[Answer] Because the Bank is a state institution, it has to verify the final destination of the loans it extends; in other words, its loans must be invested in accordance with previously verified investment calendars. Thus, its loans, including the document you mention, must undergo certain delays, just so that their final destination can be confirmed.

It must be made clear, therefore, that backing is not the only requisite for a loan; the project in question must be viable, and above all the funds must be utilized properly.

[Question] It is also believed that most of the Bank's experts and officials have very deeply-rooted bureaucratic habits, which is fatal to a bank in the long run. Is that true? What steps do you intend to take?

[Answer] From the time the bank began its operations until the 1970s, it behaved as if it were strictly a development institution, without fulfilling financial and credit functions. This attitude naturally became very deep-seated in some officials of the institution.

The implementation of schedules with indications of time limits and the personnel responsible for each transaction will tremendously speed up all the Bank's operations. At this time, an applicant, particularly one who is requesting an investment loan, already knows how long it will take to process his application and what its status is whenever he chooses to inquire.

[Question] Is it true that the Bank has too large a staff, and that this slows down services and drives up costs? What do you plan to do about this?

[Answer] It is true that the Bank has too many employees, but I should emphasize that the solution does not lie in cutting back on staff, but rather in training personnel and rationalizing their use, and especially in seeking creativity and imagination in providing support services to the mining sector. In other words, we are going to expand the Bank without the need to expand the staff.

[Question] The funds for the third stage of FOCOMI [expansion unknown] and for the refinancing of the debts of the small-scale mining sector, which total more than \$30 million, have been available for more than a year, yet the Bank has been unable to grant loans because of red tape. Will your board of directors expedite the processing of these loans?

[Answer] The Bank's interest in the problems of the mining sector ensured the rapid negotiation and allocation of the funds needed for the program. But the legal details of the program have been very complicated, given that at least three government institutions are involved. I can assure you that this Friday the relevant legal provisions will be made public, so that these loans and refinancing funds can be organized and disbursed. It should be made clear that red tape was not the problem; it was the desire to clear up the legal details that delayed the execution of this program somewhat.

[Question] What mining projects will the Bank approve in the medium term? What is your policy in this regard?

[Answer] Without ignoring the support it must give the polymetal sectors, the Bank will place special emphasis on the gold projects, since they have a major economic and social impact. For this purpose, we have already built the necessary infrastructure, including the relevant sources of financing. Our medium- and long-term policy also envisions support for the non-metal sector, and within that sector, the coal mining subsector, since that product is now becoming a major alternative source of energy.

PERU

\$700 MILLION SPENT TO DATE ON 1982 DISASTER DAMAGES

Lima El. COMERCIO in Spanish 14 Mar 85 p A-1

[Text] The chief of the National Development Institute (INADE), Juan de Madalengoitia, revealed yesterday that so far \$700 million has been spent in the 17 departments that were hit by natural disasters in 1983.

The damages in question were assessed at \$1 billion, and were totally financed; 25 percent of the financing came from reconstruction bonds, and 75 percent from loans extended by the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, the Agency for International Development, and KFW of Germany.

Projecting what will have been completed by July of this year, Madalengoitia stated that between 80 and 85 percent of all that was destroyed will have been rebuilt in the 17 departments that experienced flooding, landslides, droughts, freezes, etc.

As for highways, aside from the work normally carried out by the transportation sector, the sections of highway between Piura and Sullana, Piura and Paita, and Cancas and Talara have been completed.

In addition, 15 of the most important bridges destroyed by the floods have been practically completed.

The development official stated that the most problems have been encountered in the repair efforts in cities such as Tumbes and Piura.

"We have been plagued with delays in this area, because we have not yet been able to give the go-ahead, even though seven international bidding processes have taken place. Thus, we cannot begin paving the streets, which is what the area needs most urgently," stated the chief of INADE.

He expressed the hope that by July of this year, much of the work will have been completed.

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PERU

BENAVIDES COMMENTS ON CONDITION OF FISHING INDUSTRY

Lima CAREFAS in Spanish 25 Mar 85 pp 12-14

[Interview with Fishing Minister Ismael Benavides Ferreyros; author, date, time and place not given]

[Text] [Question] What is the current annual per capita fish consumption in our country? Why has an increase to as much as 26 kilos been set as a goal in this area?

[Answer] Today the figure is considerably higher than before. In 1983 consumption was just 9.5 kilos. The objective, which we think should be a national goal for the next 5 years, is to reach 26 kilos per capita. This is almost double the current consumption figure, and involves bringing 500,000 to 550,000 tons of fish to the people each year. This total is only 20 percent of what is caught in the sea today.

[Question] Could you compare this with other countries' figures?

[Answer] If we compare with countries such as Spain, with a consumption of 40 kilos, and Japan, which is above 60 kilos, we see that we are really setting a rather modest goal.

[Question] Where do we stand among Latin American countries?

[Answer] We are apparently in first place today. I think that Peru's fishing wealth exceeds that of most Latin American countries. Although we do not exploit our resources fully, we have a higher consumption rate than any other country.

[Question] What about yellow jack, sardines and mackerel?

[Answer] These species began to play a key role in 1976. Actually, they replaced anchovies. Today they constitute 90 percent of our biomass. It is interesting to note that these species have a higher food value than anchovies, which cannot be used for human consumption. I think they represent a new frontier in fishing activity, but they also pose a challenge, because they are caught in a different, much more difficult procedure that takes place farther from the coast and requires special equipment and nets.

[Question] What can you tell us about the Peruvian-Soviet agreement? You asked for a revision of the agreement.

[Answer] Under this fishing development agreement, the two countries collaborated on a number of efforts in different ways. In practice, the only benefit to Peru has been a fishing complex in Paita, which only recently, after many years, began to be fully utilized. The Soviets, on the other hand, gained the use of the port of Callao as a base for an enormous fishing fleet. This fleet operates out of Peru and covers the entire eastern Pacific, enabling the Soviets to catch major quantities of yellow jack and mackerel just beyond our 200-mile limit. We estimate the total at 3 to 4 million tons.

[Question] In other words, it is only possible to estimate how many fish they are catching?

[Answer] That is correct, but I think we can arrive at a fairly precise estimate. This means \$1 billion to \$1.2 billion or more in profits for them, and Peru has no share in that.

[Question] You are seeking better terms, but not the annulment of the pact?

[Answer] Better terms and a substantial reduction in their fishing effort. A reduction in the number of vessels and the volume of fish.

[Question] What percentage of their catch do they turn over to this country?

[Answer] None. I would say that it is a kind of colonialism.

[Question] It would appear that Peru has a history of constant depredation of its renewable natural resources. In the last century, for example, our country exported up to 20 million tons of guano. At current prices that would mean about \$400 million that would have been very helpful to us during these times of crisis, if that resource had been preserved. Now it appears that it is the birds' turn.

[Answer] Indeed, there has been a pattern of depredation and excess in the use of some renewable natural resources. But we must not limit that to the sea. We must look at excesses in timber development in the jungle . . .

[Question] Oh, no, that occurs in many other areas, like rubber, . . .

[Answer] In the early 1970s too many fish meal plants and vessels were promoted and built. An entire infrastructure was created for anchovy fishing. This was not limited to the private sector. I think that the government condoned and directly participated in these activities, since at that time it was interested in earning major quantities of foreign exchange. This should serve as a lesson to us. But Peru is not the only country that has done this; the same thing happened with anchovies in California and Mexico and with sardines in South Africa. I think that instead of getting involved in reproductive activities, the state should be a regulatory body that protects resources. This protection should be carried out not only by means of prohibitions and

temporary fishing suspensions, but also with a consistent policy that promotes stability in the fishing business.

[Question] The State Fishmeal and Fish Oil Production Agency (PESCAPERU) plant and the factories located in Pisco Bay dump so much waste that they are destroying marine life. This is particularly damaging to the fishermen of San Andres.

[Answer] As you know, most of the plants have been operating for 15 to 20 years. The Fishing Ministry has already tried to control the waste flowing out of there by promoting the installation of new equipment to recover solid waste and prevent much of the effluent from reaching the sea. I think this situation has improved. I personally go to that region sometimes; I fish, I dive, and I see that there has been a certain amount of recuperation.

[Question] A serious problem has arisen in the Paracas Reserve since commercial oyster gathering has been permitted in those waters.

[Answer] The Ministry's policy is to respect reserve areas. I want that to be made perfectly clear.

[Question] But your Ministry . . .

[Answer] The Ministry has not authorized a single shellfish concession in the Paracas Reserve or in any other national reserve.

[Question] Does that mean that it was the Ministry of Agriculture that was responsible?

[Answer] Agriculture controls the reserves.

[Question] Then who grants the licenses?

[Answer] Fishing does, but in a specific zone. In other words, those who are operating inside the reserve do not have a license from the Ministry. The Navy Ministry is in charge of verifying that those who lack fishing licenses leave the area. I would like to stress, then, that our policy . . .

[Question] Nevertheless, the Fishing Ministry is building a wharf in Paracas.

[Answer] There is no wharf there, it is just a very crude facility to help the small-scale fishermen unload their catch. There is no wharf, just a small pier that is in plain view.

[Question] But that could turn Paracas into what Pucusana has already become, with the movement of nets, launches, and trucks.

[Answer] No, I think the matter of the oysters is temporary. But there is a small-scale fishing industry there that needs some support. The least we can do for them is to provide a dock facility. The problem of the reserve, at least in the part right around Pisco Bay, arises out of the establishment of

the Punta de Pejerrey port. If that were not there, it would be much easier to control the reserve.

[Question] A loan of \$28 million has been extended to improve the conditions of 29 small ports along our coast. This would undoubtedly benefit the small-scale fishing industry. What projects are being carried out? What action is being taken?

[Answer] That loan had three components. The main one was for the fishing ports; another was aimed at reorganizing and restructuring the Sea Institute of Peru (IMARPE); and the third one was designed to improve fish marketing. In this regard, fish recipes are being broadcast on television, and a program for improving the sales outlets in the principal markets of Lima is also being disseminated. Modules are being developed to improve marketing, and inputs (ice, water) are being provided to street vendors who sell fish. The second aspect is the improvement of the IMARPE infrastructure. International consultation has been sought to modernize the institute, and that project is now underway. As for the 29 fishing ports, some projects have already begun in San Jose, Lagunilla and Laguna Grande; bidding has been conducted on projects in San Juan de Marcona and Culebras; and we will soon open bidding on Lomas and projects in the north. We believe that by the end of this administration, bidding will have been completed for the majority of the 29 ports.

[Question] What actions should we undertake, then, to regain the leading role that we played for many years?

[Answer] I believe that we must be quite pragmatic here. We have men who know how to manage the industry, a significant land infrastructure, and finally a fleet that, though semi-obsolete, can be modernized. We have all that potential for attaining efficient production with a maximum yield. For this purpose we must have confidence, stability, and clear rules and regulations.

[Question] Would you say we need a new Fishing Act?

[Answer] The Fishing Act should be updated to adapt to the present circumstances. I think the state should serve as a regulatory body and protect resources, and reduce its participation in production activities that by definition should be in private hands, I think. The fundamental objective of any fishing activity from now on should be to feed our people above all.

[Question] You apparently favor private initiative. Wouldn't you consider a mixed enterprise in some cases?

[Answer] I think so, when the state serves as a promotional entity. But fishing is a very chancy, risky business that is very difficult to manage. The state is not suited to that kind of activity.

[Question] We are aware that PESCAPERU still has about 1,000 employees. What will happen to them?

[Answer] Well, PESCAPERU has undergone a series of crises ever since its inception, and that is one reason why I said that the state is a poor manager in this sense. In addition, it has caused enormous losses for the country. I think that the exclusive production of fishmeal should no longer be a national objective. And if we say that private entities should not produce fishmeal, that should also apply to PESCAPERU. What future do I see for PESCAPERU? I think the goal should be a flexible industry that produces not only fishmeal but also canned fish, when the market warrants it, as well as frozen products. I would say that perhaps in the medium term we should aim for each PESCAPERU plant being converted into a mixed enterprise, with private entrepreneurs investing in the canning and freezing plants.

[Question] What percentage of PESCAPERU's capacity is operating at present, let's say at the plant level?

[Answer] It has seven plants left, with a capacity of, say, 2 million tons. That is very high. At present it is operating at more or less 50 percent capacity, but within that 50 percent, costs have already been cut and operations have been rationalized. The enterprise is operating at a profit. The problem is that it has an enormous financial burden to bear in the form of debts that have accumulated over the years.

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PERU

BRIEFS

U.S. EXTRADITES BANK OFFICIAL--The Fifth Lower Court is going to request to the Supreme Court the extradition of Alvaro Meneses, the former director of the Bank of the Nation. Meneses was accused by the General Comptroller Office of embezzling 650 million soles. At the beginning of the investigation, Judge Jernandez, the head of the Fifth Lower Court, did not find any evidence of embezzlement; therefore, Provincial Prosecutor Adolfo Mendez Mendez appealed to the Third Court headed by Judge Carlos (Zaponara), who granted the appeal. Judge Fernandez will now have to open a hearing against Alvaro Meneses, who is currently residing in the United States. It has been learned that [words indistinct] against Meneses who will be extradicted for a hearing. Other bank officials accused of the same charges will also have to attend the hearing. [Text] [Lima Radio del Pacifico in Spanish 1200 GMT 26 Mar 85]

BOLIVIAN BORDER INCIDENT DENIED--Lima, 12 Apr (EFE)--An official spokesman of the Peruvian Armed Forces Joint Command today reported that nothing serious had happened on the Peruvian-Bolivan border. Referring to an alleged clash between Peruvian and Bolivian soldiers in the border area, the spokesman denied that any shooting took place and stated that this was just a news report and reiterated that it was nothing serious. The local radio station, Radioprogramas del Peru, today reported on the alleged clash, which has not been officially confirmed, after incidents, which apparently have been overcome, on the removal of border markers from their fixed positions were reported over the past few days. The Bolivian ambassador in Lima, Walter Montenegro, today expressed his skepticism about the alleged clash and stated that, in his opinion, it seemed rather unlikely. [Text] [Madrid EFE in Spanish 2045 GMT 12 Apr 85]

GUINEAN AMBASSADOR PRESENTS CREDENTIALS--Lima, 2 Apr (AFP)--President Fernando Belaunde Terry today received the credentials of the new Guinean ambassador to Lima, Lamine Sougoule. Sougole is concurrent ambassador in Peru and Cuba and is based in Havana. [Summary] [Paris AFP in Spanish 0642 GMT 3 Apr 85]

ACCORDS SIGNED WITH FRG--Lima, 19 March (AFP)--Peruvian Foreign Minister Luis Percovich and FRG Ambassador Hans Joachim Hille today signed seven cooperation agreements. The most important accord is one for financial cooperation amounting to DM 150 million to continue the Jequetepeque irrigation project in northern Peru. The other six accords are for technical cooperation and nonreimbursable loans for industrial, enterprise, and sanitary development projects in various parts of the country. [Summary] [Paris AFP in Spanish 2326 GMT 19 Mar 85]

UNEMPLOYMENT PROJECTION NUMBERS--Of 6 million Peruvians who are available for work, only 2 million are adequately employed. By the year 2000, 10.2 million people will be looking for work, but the possibility of offering them employment will be very slim, states an interesting study conducted by the Institute for Economic Studies of the National Association of Industries (SNI). The study, made public by SNI President Ernesto Lanata, states that population control is the nation's second greatest problem, while providing food for that population is, alarmingly, the greatest problem facing the nation. Peru, the study says, is a highly fertile country, with a 2.8 percent annual growth rate and an average of 5.4 children per woman. In rural areas, that average is 8 children. By the year 2000, if current trends continue, the population will total 43 million. It will be much more difficult by then for families to save enough for investment. [Text] [Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 23 Mar 85 p A-15] 8926

GERMAN GRANTS FUND PROJECTS--The Jequetepeque project was saved from paralysis by a soft loan from the Federal Republic of Germany in the amount of 105 million marks. In addition, technical cooperation was also offered for other national programs for a total of 8 million marks. After signing the agreements, German Ambassador Hans-Joachim Hille stated that his country is willing to underwrite the entire foreign currency cost of that project, in view of the serious financial difficulties Peru is facing and the importance of the project. He said that this aid and the assistance granted for Tinajones add up to 427 million marks, which is the largest amount of money loaned since FRG began cooperating with Peru. Luis Percovich expressed gratitude for the support, and said that these pacts are "firm monuments to German cooperation." The other agreement provides support for small industry in Trujillo, the fish inspection program, the University of Lima communication program, municipal savings and loan banks of the Piura pilot plan, basic health care in Cuzco, and the system for controlling basic medications. [Text] [Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 20 Mar 85 p A-1] 8926

LOWER OIL PRODUCTION EXPECTED--The country's oil production in 1985 will average 14,000 barrels per day less than the 1984 figure, stated Energy and Mines Minister Juan Inchaustegui yesterday. By the same token, oil exports and the resultant foreign exchange earnings will also drop this year from last year's totals. Inchaustegui stated that the State Petroleum Agency (PETROPERU) has projected production of 166,000 barrels per day this year. He recalled that the 1984 figure was 180,000 barrels per day. Despite the decline, which is the product of poor exploration results, the minister stated that we are still self-sufficient, and are even able to export a small quantity of oil. Nonetheless, though we exported 60,000 barrels per day in 1984 for a yearly income of \$450 million, the state enterprise expects to earn \$380 million in 1985 from 42,000 barrels per day of exports. Domestic consumption averaged 120,000 barrels per day in 1984, and this year it will not exceed 124,000 barrels per day. [Excerpt] [Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 14 Mar 85 p A-4] 8926

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SURINAME

UN REPORT PRESENTS TWO ACCOUNTS OF DECEMBER 1982 KILLINGS

Willemstad AMIGOE in Dutch 19 Feb 85 p 1

[Text] Geneva--The 15 persons who criticized the Bouterse regime in Suriname were locked up in Fort Zeelandia on 8 December 1982 and summarily executed. The Kenyan jurist Amos Wako, special UN investigator contradicts therefore the original Suriname explanation that the fifteen were shot down "during an escape attempt." This weekend this was confirmed in diplomatic circles of the United Nations in Geneva after sections of the report had leaked out.

Wako made this report after he visited Suriname last year. The special UN investigator talked in Suriname, as well as the Netherlands, with over a hundred persons to obtain information about the incidents of December 1982. Among the persons he interviewed were Army Commander Bouterse, other military persons, and the present Suriname Premier Udenhout. It is to be expected that the report will next week be discussed in the Human Rights Committee of the UN in Geneva.

In this report Wako presents two versions of what took place. The officers he interrogated told him that the only officers inside the fort during the execution of the fifteen were Major Zeeuw, in the meantime promoted to deputy commander of the Military Police, and Garrison Commander Horb. They also said that there were also some conscripted soldiers under Horb's command in Fort Zeelandia. Zeeuw told Wako that these soldiers opened fire on the fifteen captured critics of the regime with a Bren gun. Zeeuw did not exactly know why the soldiers had opened fire. They may have thought that there was to be an escape attempt, but the prisoners would then have been forced to scale a high wall. When Wako asked several officers who had committed the act he was told that only Horb knew those persons.

According to Zeeuw, Horb immediately tried to reach Commander Bouterse and Captain Graanoogst, the present chief of staff, by telephone. Grannoogst told Wako that he was informed by telephone that soliders had fired on the defendants who were trying to escape. He also mentioned airplanes which apparently flew over Paramaribo in the night of 8 December.

In his report Wako also gives a second version of the incidents of 8 December. According to the UN report this version is based on statements of other witnesses; at least five of these eyewitnesses claim to have been in Fort Zeelandia that particular night. According to these witnesses the action against the critics was planned beforehand and the military leadership had decided that they should be killed. These witnesses testified that during the execution of the fifteen not just Horb and Zeeuw were in the fort but also Bouterse and the present garrison commander, Baghwandas, moreover, there were also other military persons of the group of sixteen who executed the coup of 25 February 1980. The politician and later prime minister Alibux and H. Naarendorp, then a minister of the government, were also reported to have been in the fort for a short period of time.

Wako writes that he has also seen photographs of the corpses of the victims and that he talked to witnesses who testified that the victims were shot at close range facing their executioners. According to these witnesses the victims also showed evidence of having been tortured. In conclusion Wako writes that "summary executions" took place in Fort Zeelandia on 8 December. He goes on to say that summary executions can only be prevented in the future if democracy is reinstated in Suriname. According to the UN investigator, Bouterse expressed his regret about the incidents of 8 December and said that they will certainly not be repeated.

A Latin American diplomat in Geneva called Wako's reports not yet officially published, "very surprising" because it is rather explicit in its data. Suriname is the first, and up till now, the only country which the special UN investigator of summary executions has been able to visit.

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VENEZUELA

NATERA, GARMENDIA SEEK FEDECAMARAS' PRESIDENCY

Natera on Economic Reactivation

Caracas EL DIARIO DE CARACAS in Spanish 24 Mar 85 p 30

[Text] Venezuelan businessman Francisco Natera, surrounded by his campaign team in Maracaibo, announced to the nation last Thursday that he was seeking the presidency of FEDECAMARAS [Venezuelan Federation of Associations and Chambers of Commerce and Industry] for 1985-1986.

He made the announcement at the headquarters of the Union of Merchants of Zulia and promised to develop a series of programs and plans aimed at resolving the country's major problems.

Natera emphasized that one of the most important steps is to influence and to present solutions to the commission that has been appointed to undertake a reform of government.

In this regard he said that unless there is government reform, we cannot talk about building the nation horizontally or about its comprehensive development.

Reactivation Is a Task for All

The great revolution that we must undertake today is the decentralization of administrative decision-making, which is not concentrated in the capital of the republic.

He went on to say that the country's economic recovery is the responsibility of all Venezuelans and, therefore, of businessmen, adding that there will be no recovery unless we lay the groundwork for a return of foreign capital to the country, to which end we must rid ourselves of the complex that acceptance of foreign investment compromises the nation's sovereignty.

Natera also called for an end to government intervention and said that President Jaime Lusinchi's Social Pact policy is a good way to get government, business and labor to sit down and discuss benefits for the workers.

Natera also talked about the country's economic crisis, which is clearly reflected in the main economic indicators. He said that "the leveling off and decline in the fundamental variables is a sign of capital depletion and impoverishment. There is an economic crisis because of the high rate of inflation and because of the low productivity in all activities."

Delfino Supports Garmendia's Candidacy

Caracas EL DIARIO DE CARACAS in Spanish 24 Mar 85 p 32

[Text] A large group of businessmen meeting in Acarigua last Thursday proclaimed Rafael Marcial Garmendia as their candidate for FEDECAMARAS president for the 1985-86 term. Speaking to his supporters, Garmendia, a cattleman, proposed to the country "a major contract for productivity, which will be synonymous with efficient production."

Garmendia guaranteed that "as president of FEDECAMARAS I will be a faithful guardian of business unity and represent all Venezuelan businessmen."

Speaking at the event, which took place at the Italian-Venezuelan Club of Acarigua-Araure, was the former president of FEDECAMARAS and chairman of the Rafael Marcial Garmendia campaign committee, Alfredo Paul Delfino. Garmendia is currently the first vice president of the nation's leading business organization.

Delfino began by recalling Claudio Ciferri, the former president of the Association of Cattlemen of Portuguesa who was vilely murdered on his estate on that fateful day of 19 December 1977. He then denounced the fact that his murderer, Numa Salas Bustillos, who was found guilty, was later released by "his friend and relative, Luis Herrera Campins." Delfino then called on the audience to rise and observe a minute of silence in memory of Claudio Ciferri and as an expression of their revulsion with the crime, the criminal and "the loathsome pardon." Delfino then continued his speech.

Requirements of a Presidential Candidate

"We have evaluated the various candidates for FEDECAMARAS president in light of these principles and in spite of interferences that in one way or another are directed against them, whether for reasons of personal convenience or to introduce partisan politics into our unions.

"The basic requirements that businessmen from all over the country demand of those seeking their support are clear-cut and specific: representativeness; a good record in institutional battles; ability; experience; reliability and honesty; a national image as a leader; independence from political factors or economic groups, and an ability to bring people together."

Delfino went on to say that "taking these requirements into account, we have chosen Mr Rafael Marcial Garmendia, who more than meets them. He is one of business's youngest and most representative leading lights. He is a genuine cattleman, with his own ranch in Lara State. He is a director of local industries and banks. As a businessman rancher, he is laudably following in the footsteps of his father and his relatives. He is a businessman day in and day out. He comes from a long line of businessmen from the provinces."

"He has a long and brilliant record, in spite of his youth. Having done his basic studies in Barquisimeto and Caracas, early on he joined the Board of Directors of the Cattlemen's Association of Lara State and then, 3 years later, became its president. For 2 years he belonged to that state's Chamber of Industry. A member of the board of the National Federation of Cattlemen for 3 years, he later became vice president and then president of the federation, serving for 5 years and posting an excellent record. He has been on the FEDECAMARAS board for 5 years. He has served as second vice president for 2 years and as first vice president for 2 years."

Capable, Serious, Knowledgeable and Honest

"His record stands him in good stead as he runs for president of a body that he knows well, just as he knows the problems of the country well because they are daily issues for those who sit on the board of our number one institution. He is neither a profiteer nor a ladder-climber. He is an earnest, studious businessman, and nothing in his record would lead one to believe that he is inspired by anything other than a desire to serve his sector and private enterprise. As we can readily see, his actions have entailed personal material sacrifices for him. No one can call him as upstart.

"These personal qualities and abilities give him the credentials to head organized business with increasing vigor in a nation facing one of the most severe general crises in its history."

Rafael Marcial Garmendia's as a National Figure

The former FEDECAMARAS president emphasized that "Rafael Marcial Garmendia is a nationally known figure. As a prominent rancher, as a member of the FEDECAMARAS board, as a member of youth and sports chambers, he knows every inch of our country and our chambers and associations. Nothing about the provinces is foreign to him. The launching of his candidacy in Acarigua confirms that he has strong ties to business activities in the interior of Venezuela. Hence the support that he enjoys in all regions of the country. But his ties are more than with the provinces. He also has the backing of chambers in the capital."

Delfino described him as "a candidate who can bring together regions and sectors. He is a farmer and a rancher with ties to industry,

commerce and services. Support has come from all sectors for the candidate whom the provinces are offering to the chambers and associations in the metropolitan area and the country's central region."

Alfredo Paul Delfino felt that "one of the most serious developments in the nation over the past 25 years or so has been the emergence of partisan politics in spheres to which it is ill-suited. The model that our democratic political organizations have adopted and the desire to create conditions that would make a return to the days of the dictatorship impossible, have been marked by excesses and abuse. Some have engaged in such excesses for personal convenience, using political parties as covers. Thus, large segments of our society have gradually lost not only their representativeness but their support, credibility and respect as well..."

"The invasion by political parties of activities that are not properly theirs has had grave consequences for the country. We need only mention the disaster in the judiciary. Judges at every level are chosen at closed-door party meetings that attach no importance to ability and honesty. Thus, we are not surprised that our system of justice has been discredited. The many recent cases demonstrate how serious the situation is. A good many court decisions are, in practice, said to go in favor of the highest bidder.

"Politicians are even meddling in the Armed Forces. Among other things, it is well known that officer service records are not always taken into consideration in promotions. Brilliant officers with fine service records, with the necessary seniority, with excellent marks in all disciplines, men of proven honesty who meet all requirements, are often outraged and frustrated to see well-deserved promotions denied them again and again because they do not have a political godfather. Meanwhile, other, often mediocre officers with less seniority and who are less deserving are quickly promoted if they enjoy political backing..."

FEDECAMARAS out of Partisan Politics

"Fortunately, partisan politics has been held in check in our business unions. Its attempts to make inroads have been turned back. Partisan politics has been unable to influence, coopt or strike down the objectives and basic principles of business's leading organization. Our federation has dealt a death blow to the attempts in this direction by a handful of false prophets."

Delfino stated that "such failures have not prevented some from seeking the FEDECAMARAS presidency for their personal gain or ambitions. All such ambitions, no matter how well cloaked in fine-sounding ideas and phrases, must be given a cold shoulder, at least, by the business world."

"This is because FEDECAMARAS has a vocation of service to the community. It is not a haven for 'zolas' or for individuals or groups after their own gain. Those who aspire to be its president must be free of ulterior motives. Candidates must not only appear honest and independent of any political party; they must be honest and independent beyond any doubt.

"The point is not to devalue politics, as the bolivar was devalued.

"But bringing together different institutions with different objectives eventually weakens and finally destroys nonpolitical institutions.

"The best way that FEDECAMARAS can help the country is by being strong, united and independent. Thus, all businessmen have an unshirkable duty to categorically reject any illegitimate, rash attempt to politicize FEDECAMARAS.

"FEDECAMARAS must remain untouched by confusion. Its clear-cut political independence does not permit commitments to any political force whatsoever nor ties with any economic group. This is an indispensable requirement to run for president of FEDECAMARAS.

"Representativeness, a long, clean record, talent, a national image, the ability to bring people together and total independence are fundamental characteristics of Rafael Marcial Garmendia. These are the qualifications that he has to offer the nation's businessmen. They are the credentials for his legitimate aspirations. They are the source of his support, which has come to light today in Acarigua and will spread throughout the nation. An independent, united and strong FEDECAMARAS is the finest contribution to the nation's development and progress."

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VENEZUELA

FEDEPETROL PRESIDENT ANNOUNCES CONGRESS OF PETROLEUM WORKERS

Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 9 Mar 85 p D-6

[Article by Cayetano Ramirez]

[Text] One of the main issues that the Eighth Congress of Petroleum Workers will take up will be the enhanced nationalization of the oil industry, in the sense of moving forward with internal processing, exporting less crude oil and more derivatives, and promoting the development of domestic equipment and services.

The president of FEDEPETROL [Federation of Petroleum Workers], Carlos Pinerua, reported yesterday that the congress, which represents 40,000 industry workers and thousands of services firms, would meet in Caracas from 21 to 23 March with 190 delegates from 36 unions. The president of the republic will attend the opening ceremony in the company of the minister of energy and mines, the labor minister and other members of the Executive Branch. Observers from sister unions in the United States, Latin America and Europe have confirmed that they will attend also.

"So far, two major committees have been set up and are functioning: the Oil Policy Committee, which consists of Drs Humberto Calderon Berti, Arevalo Guzman Reyes and Alvaro Silva Calderon; and the Bylaws Reform Committee, made up of jurists Dimas Novos Montero, Esteban Marciano and Antonio Maria Pineda.

"At this congress," Pinerua said, "we are going to propose that Venezuela celebrate the 10th anniversary of the nationalization of the oil industry, which took place during the term of Carlos Andres Perez. In so doing, we want the workers, who are the backbone of the industry, to reaffirm their commitment to efficiency and to say that they will be on the alert against all of the traps and threats of the trans-nationals, which even now are not resigned to our country's patriotic decision to nationalize an industry that imperialist foreign capital had vilely exploited by taking advantage of the weakness of the labor movement and the complacency of treasonous governments, of whose unpatriotic schemes there is more than enough evidence."

"The Eighth Congress is going to look into the possibility of resuming efforts that could lead to the creation of a workers' OPEC. And we hope that countries like Mexico, which is not a member of the exporters organization, will be able to take part through its oil industry workers."

Pinerua noted that an organization of OPEC oil workers was a goal that Dr Perez Alfonzo talked about when OPEC was founded in 1960.

"The situation in the Caribbean is also a challenge for our country," Pinerua added, "in light of geopolitical considerations that Venezuela cannot turn its back on. We must act before the transnationals and the countries that have traditionally exploited our weaknesses can plot to block the historic union that Venezuela can further."

"The Eighth Congress will also have to take up the enhancement of the nationalization, because our ambition must be a shift from our status of a mere exporter of crude fossil fuels to a major processor of those fuels; this will also benefit domestic engineering firms and goods and services industries that supply the oil sector. It is regrettable that some fossil fuels derivatives have to be imported and that piping has to be completed overseas."

Candidate for Reelection

After his address, Pinerua fielded several questions from newsmen. The first was: Will you run for reelection as FEDEPETROL president?

[Answer] Yes, I will. I'm getting ready to run for reelection. This will be my final term, after which I will pass the torch to the new people who have been preparing themselves in FEDEPETROL.

[Question] Have there been political understandings for the election of the Board of Directors? Would a single slate be possible?

[Answer] There have been talks among the three main branches, but AD uses the relative majority system, and if several slates were presented, the chairman [presidencia] would win. We would like to see a single slate because we are in favor of unity, and talks are under way in this regard.

[Question] What does FEDEPETROL think about the proposal by several private businessmen to take part in oil industry operations?

[Answer] We have said that we are not in disagreement with private firms getting to know the industry and patriotically offering their contribution to achieve a comprehensive consolidation. Unfortunately, however, we have found that the aim of this proposal is to serve the interests of the transnationals, which want these firms as proxies so that what are actually underhanded interests look as if they are

national interests. We all hope that the \$50 billion that are outside the country will be brought back in a spirit of patriotism and help to create oil industry services and supplies companies whose decisions are not made overseas. We have nothing against giving open-minded consideration to this sort of involvement in enhancing the nationalization, but we want to know what their intentions are. They must make their intentions clear so that we do not have, as in the past, Venezuelans who are merely middlemen for foreign companies and powers.

[Question] What would be the purpose of a workers' OPEC?

[Answer] In spite of the differences between governments, Perez Alfonzo said that a workers' OPEC ought to be set up so that the working class would have a way of knowing what the oil is being used for and of seeing to it that instead of furthering the objectives of war and domination, the oil could be a tool for peace and justice. This thought is in the back of our minds, and it is a goal of oil workers even today.

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VENEZUELA

ENERGY MINISTER ON PERFORMANCE OF PETROCHEMICAL INDUSTRIES

Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish 14 Mar 85 p 2-2

[Article by C.R. Chavez]

[Text] Although 1984 was a problem-filled year for the oil business in general, it was much better for oil and petrochemicals than 1983. The average price of oil exports rose, and petrochemicals sales were up; moreover, for the first time in its history, the petrochemical industry made a net profit of almost 1 billion bolivars in fiscal year 1984.

The foreword to the report that Energy and Mines Minister Dr Arturo Hernandez Grisanti submitted to Congress on 12 March highlights these and other developments in the oil industry last year.

Oil Industry Performance

"The operational and financial performance of the national oil industry in 1984 can be termed highly satisfactory, in spite of the adverse conditions on the world oil market last year. Exports averaged 1,517,000 barrels a day, 17,000 barrels a day more than in 1983. The average export prices was \$26.70 a barrel, up \$1.39 from the average 1983 price of \$25.31.

"These higher export revenues, plus the impact of the exchange measures that the administration took in February, including the shift in the exchange rate for the oil dollar from 4.2925 to 5.9925 bolivars to the dollar, significantly strengthened the financial status of the oil industry. Also of help in this regard were the increases in domestic energy prices and the efforts made to monitor and cut operating costs. As a result of all these factors, the industry's net profit rose from 7.582 billion bolivars in 1983 to 14.828 billion in 1984, a jump of 95.6 percent.

"As a result of the above, the oil industry's cash flow, which showed a deficit of 1.422 billion bolivars in 1983, posted a surplus of 9.922 billion last year, thus reversing a dangerous capital depletion trend that had been plaguing our number one industry in recent years.

"The income tax and the exploitation tax brought in 64.426 billion bolivars during the fiscal year, up 66.5 percent from the 38.691 billion the year before. Tax receipts rose from 40.497 billion bolivars in 1983 to 60.537 billion bolivars in 1984, an increase of 49.5 percent.

"Foreign exchange earnings from oil exports in 1984 totaled \$14.933 billion, up \$1.06 billion from the previous fiscal year. As for foreign exchange outlays for overseas equipment and services, the industry spent \$935 million in 1984, \$467 million less than in 1983, a drop of 33.3 percent, all of which helped to improve the country's balance of payments position."

Petrochemicals

"The operational and financial recovery of the national petrochemical industry, which began in 1977, was strongly in evidence in 1984. The consolidated profit-and-loss statement of PEQUIVEN [Petrochemical Company of Venezuela] showed a net profit of 885 million bolivars in 1984, which is 32 times more than in 1983, when profits reached just 27 million bolivars. Although it is true that about half of this profit total came from exchange transactions, it is still noteworthy that for the first time in its history the petrochemical industry posted a solid operating profit of 451 million bolivars.

"For the first time in its history as well, the state-run petrochemical industry paid taxes to the National Treasury, a total of 167 million bolivars in income taxes.

"As far as operations are concerned, we should underscore that the gross output of the Moron and El Tablazo complexes hit 1.8 million metric tons, up 23.4 percent from 1983. Sales totaled 1.5 million tons, up 37.3 percent from the previous year.

"The largest increase in this area was posted by fertilizer sales on the domestic market, which rose from 335,000 metric tons in 1983 to 601,000 metric tons in 1984, a jump of 79.4 percent.

"The increase is due mainly to the fertilizer price subsidy that the national government put into effect in March 1984 in an effort to boost the productivity of the agricultural sector.

"As we know, the administration grants this subsidy to the state-run fertilizer distributing enterprise PALMAVEN in the form of a budgetary allotment to the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, thus maintaining the national petrochemical industry as a commercial enterprise."

The Hydrocarbons Sector

"When I took over as minister of energy and mines on 2 February 1984," Hernandez Grisanti said, "I realized that the new administration would be working under economic, oil-related and fiscal conditions that would be completely different from the ones that the country experienced during almost the entire previous decade and the start of the current one. In 1978, the last year of the 1974-79 constitutional term of office, tax receipts from oil totaled 25.81 billion bolivars. Three years later, in 1981, the 3rd year of the following term of office (1979-84), the tax receipts had risen to 70.885 billion bolivars. Total oil revenues during this period amounted to 240.293 billion bolivars.

"This tax windfall, stemming from the steep hikes in world oil prices between 1979 and 1981, will surely not repeat itself. We can assert, without fear of error, that tax receipts from the oil industry, which totaled 60.537 billion bolivars in 1984 (after the drop in the oil dollar exchange rate from 4.3 to 6 bolivars and the increase in hydrocarbons prices on the domestic market), will not triple from 1984 to 1987, as they virtually did between 1978 and 1981.

"The world oil market underwent sweeping structural transformations over the past decade, transformations that gained momentum as of 1979 and became clearly evident in the oil market later on, particularly after 1981. The former correlation between economic growth and higher oil consumption has been dramatically altered. The drop in world oil consumption, conservation and the more efficient use of energy, increased supply from alternative energy sources and the rise in world oil output have all had a particularly strong impact on the economies of the OPEC producing countries.

"Riding the crest of oil boom wave, Venezuela developed consumption habits that were not in keeping with its actual potential, and every sort of administrative and institutional shortcoming was exacerbated. For these reasons, the national government realized from its outset that its priority mission would be to physically and spiritually rebuild the country within the framework of the limitations imposed on it by an oil market whose structural difficulties can be overcome only in the long run.

"In this vein, the strategic objective of the administrative actions undertaken by the administration in the oil sector has been to bolster the sector's role as a tool for national development, as the Seventh Plan of the Nation (1984-1988) calls for."

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